UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BRETT CHRISTIAN, FIREARMS POLICY COALITION, INC., and SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

Plaintiffs,

v.

STEVEN A. NIGRELLI, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the New York State Police, and JOHN J. FLYNN, in his official capacity as District Attorney for the County of Erie,

No. 22-cv-00695 (JLS)

Defendants.

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION OF RYAN L. BELKA

RYAN L. BELKA, declares under penalty of perjury that the following is true and correct:

- 1. I am an Assistant Attorney General, of counsel to Letitia James, New York State Attorney General, and with my co-counsel James Thompson, I represent Defendant Steven A. Nigrelli, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the New York State Police ("Superintendent Nigrelli"), in this action.
- 2. I make this supplemental declaration in support of Defendant's Sur-Reply in Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for a Preliminary Injunction.
- 3. Attached as **Exhibit 1** is a true and accurate copy of the transcript of Plaintiff's deposition testimony taken under oath on November 16, 2022.
- 4. Plaintiff's deposition was taken pursuant to an agreement between the parties, and blessed by the court [ECF No. 40], to depose Plaintiff in lieu of live testimony at the November 22, 2022, preliminary injunction hearing.

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5. While the Local Rules for the Western District generally advise that only sections

of the transcript cited-to should be attached as an exhibit, in this case, where the deposition

transcript is replacing live testimony, the State believes that it is more appropriate for the entire

transcript to be attached as an exhibit – as the entire record would be available for the court to

consider in the case of live testimony taken at a hearing.

6. Plaintiffs consented to Defendant Nigrelli's filing of an "approximately 5 page"

sur-reply in this matter.

Dated: Buffalo, New York

November 21, 2022

/s/ Ryan L. Belka

RYAN L. BELKA

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

BRETT CHRISTIAN, FIREARMS POLICY COALITION, INC., and SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

Plaintiffs,

v.

STEVEN A. NIGRELLI, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the New York State Police, and JOHN J. FLYNN, in his official capacity as District Attorney for the County of Erie,

Defendants.

No. 22-cv-00695 (JLS)

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 21, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the District Court using its CM/ECF system.

Dated: Buffalo, New York November 21, 2022 **LETITIA JAMES**

Attorney General of the State of New York Attorneys for Defendant Nigrelli

BY:

s/Ryan L. Belka

RYAN L. BELKA

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1	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2	WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3	
4	BRETT CHRISTIAN, FIREARMS POLICY COALITION, INC., and SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION,
5	Plaintiffs,
6	-vs- Civil Action No. 22-cv-00695 (JLS)
7	
8	STEVEN A. NIGRELLI, in his official capacity as Superintendent of the New York State Police,
9	and JOHN J. FLYNN, in his official capacity as District Attorney for the County of Erie,
10	Defendants.
11	Examination Before Trial of BRETT
12	CHRISTIAN, held before Brooklyn Morton, Notary
13	Public, at Phillips Lytle, LLP, One Canalside,
14	125 Main Street, Buffalo, New York, on November
15	16th, 2022, commencing at 1:00 p.m. and ending
16	at 5:00 p.m., pursuant to notice.
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1	APPEARANCES
2	APPEARING FOR THE PLAINTIFFS:
3	PHILLIPS LYTLE, LLP BY: SAM WILLIAMS, ESQ.
4	
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7	PHILLIPS LYTLE, LLP
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MR. BELKA: Nick, usual stipulations?
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          Do you want to read and sign?
                MR. ROTSKO: Yes, please.
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                MR. BELKA: Okay. And so we will
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          probably be on an expedited basis because the
          actual hearing in this matter is on the 22nd
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 7
          and so we have to submit it to the court before
          that and then he is going to need an
8
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          opportunity to read it and sign it before then.
10
                THE REPORTER: Okay. So ideally, what
          day would you like the transcript by?
11
                MR. BELKA: Nick, that's a question for
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13
          you -- oh, I quess it's a question for me.
14
          What are we at?
                           Is it the 15th or 16th?
15
                THE REPORTER: The 16th.
16
                MR. ROTSKO: The 16th today.
17
                MR. BELKA: And it's Wednesday. Friday,
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          can we do it Friday?
19
                MR. ROTSKO: Is it possible to get it
20
          tomorrow by any chance?
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                MR. BELKA: Well, but I have to pay for
          it if it's tomorrow.
22
23
                MR. ROTSKO: If there's an additional
24
          fee, we would be willing to cover that.
25
                MR. BELKA: That's fine. Tomorrow is
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-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

fine. Don't worry about the additional fee. If it's somehow outside the state contract, then help me out.

MR. ROTSKO: Certainly. Will do.

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BRETT CHRISTIAN,

1265 Cleveland Drive, Apartment upper west, Cheektowaga, New York 14225, having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

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EXAMINATION BY MR. BELKA:

- Q. Brett, you just gave your address for the court. About where is that located in Buffalo? Is it near anything large?
- A. It's located in Cheektowaga. It's not under Buffalo's jurisdiction so I can't vote in a Buffalo election, for example. It is very close to the intersection of Cleveland Drive and Union Road.
- Q. Okay. Are you out near the airport?
- A. I would say approximately relatively close to the airport. Within a mile.
- Q. Okay. Have you ever been deposed in a lawsuit before?

- A. No, I have not.
- Q. Okay. Have you ever been involved in a lawsuit before?
- A. Not to my knowledge. I have never given testimony, never been in court in this type of circumstance outside of a parking ticket.
- Q. Okay. Is it all right if I explain the rules of a deposition to you very briefly?
- A. Yes. That would be fine.
- Q. Okay. So a deposition is testimony taken as if you were on the stand in court. Do you understand that?
- 13 A. Yes.

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- Q. And in that capacity, you have been sworn in under oath. Do you understand that?
 - A. Yes, I do.
 - Q. Okay. And is there anything that would prevent you from telling the truth today during this deposition?
- A. Not to the best of my knowledge.
- Q. Do you have -- have you taken any medication that would prevent you from telling the truth today?
- A. No, I have not.
- 25 Q. Have you taken alcohol or illegal drugs that

- would prevent you from testifying?
- A. No, I have not.
- Q. One thing to know about a deposition is that it's not like a usual conversation. You have to wait until the end of my question and then answer the question. Do you understand?
- A. Yes.

- Q. The goal here is to make a clear record of the question and answer for the court reporter and the best way to do that even if you anticipate the answer is to not speak over each other.

 Is that understood?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. So is it fair that to the best of your knowledge and recollection I will get the truth from you here today to the questions that I ask you?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. I don't anticipate this to be a particularly long deposition. However, if you need a break, just let me know and I will ask you to answer whatever pending question before we take a break or if you need to go to the bathroom, okay?
 - A. Understood.

- Q. Okay. Do you have any questions for me about your deposition today?
- A. At this time, I do not.
- Q. How did you come to be a plaintiff in this lawsuit?
- A. Well --

MR. ROTSKO: Objection to the extent it calls for attorney-client privilege information.

Q. You still have to answer to the extent -- I don't want you to -- let's make this clear for the record.

I am not asking you for any information or communication that you have received directly from your attorneys, okay? But I am asking if you can tell me how you came to be a plaintiff in this lawsuit without divulging any particular attorney-client information.

A. I approached them once the passage of the CCIA happened and seeing that what was written in black and white, how it would impact my life.

I approached them and expressed interest in is there something that I could do by becoming a plaintiff that might help to rectify how I feel my rights have been infringed upon.

- Q. Who is them in that sentence? Who did you approach?
- A. I approached FPC, Firearms Policy Coalition and Second Amendment Foundation.
- Q. And how did you approach these two organizations?
- A. I both called and emailed.
- Q. And when you approached these organizations about being a plaintiff in a Second Amendment lawsuit, what was the response?
- A. They asked me some initial questions to gain some information about me as a person and then we proceeded from there.
- Q. Can you recall what any of those initial questions were and were they -- strike that.

Can you recall the manner in which you received the initial questions?

- A. The initial questions, to the best of my knowledge, were a phone conversation.
- Q. And who did you speak with?
- A. That would have been a lawyer named John from what I can remember.
 - O. And --

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MR. ROTSKO: And the contents of that would be privileged.

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -MR. BELKA: That's fine. Well, 1 2 depending. 3 BY MR. BELKA: 4 5 Q. What organization did John work for? I believe, to the best of my knowledge, that 6 7 would be Firearms Policy Coalition. MR. ROTSKO: If I may interject, Ryan. 8 9 And I don't want to slow you down, but let's 10 talk about the last name because if it's John 11 Tienken, he's an attorney at Cooper & Kirk and 12 that would be privileged. MR. BELKA: I understand. 13 14 15 BY MR. BELKA: 16 Q. So do you know if the John that you spoke to after you initially approached the two 17 organizational plaintiffs in this case was 18 named John Tienken? 19 20 A. Yes. 21 Q. And that was your first contact after having 22 called and email the organizational 23 plaintiffs? 24 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes. 25 Q. At the time of your initial phone conversation

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 with John Tienken, did you enter into an 1 attorney-client relationship with him? 2 They agreed to take me on as a 3 4 plaintiff. 5 MR. BELKA: Nick, I am going to ask just 6 so that you can object, okay? 7 BY MR. BELKA: 8 9 Q. Can you please tell me the content of the 10 questions and responses you gave to John Tienken in that initial conversation? 11 12 MR. ROTSKO: Objection. I would direct 13 Mr. Christian not to answer because that 14 statement clearly calls for attorney-client 15 privileged communications. 16 MR. BELKA: And, Nick, is it fair to say that any questions that I ask regarding 17 Mr. Christian's communications with attorneys 18 19 at Cooper & Kirk will be -- he will be directed 20 not to answer under the guise of 21 attorney-client privilege? 22 MR. ROTSKO: I will object when 23 questions would elicit attorney-client 24 communications. 25

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -BY MR. BELKA: 1 Q. Did you have any further conversations with 2 3 John Tienken after that initial call? 4 A. Yes. There has been emails and phone 5 conversations. Q. Okay. Can you tell me the content of those 6 7 emails and phone conversations? MR. ROTSKO: Same objection. 8 9 Q. Have you had any other communications with 10 other attorneys at Cooper & Kirk? A. I do not remember if they worked for that 11 particular law firm because there has -- as 12 13 this has gone on, more and more people have 14 become involved. I am not the best with last 15 names. A little bit better with first names. 16 Q. Did you have a conversation with Sam today? A. Yes, I did. 17 MR. BELKA: All right. Sam, what's your 18 19 last name? 20 MR. WILLIAMS: Williams. 21 BY MR. BELKA: 22 23 Q. Okay. Did you have a conversation with Sam 24 Williams today? 25 A. That's correct.

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -Q. And do you understand that he's an attorney at 1 2 Cooper & Kirk? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Okay. Can you tell me what you guys said to 5 each other? 6 MR. ROTSKO: Objection. 7 Q. When did you first become involved with the Firearms Policy Coalition? 8 9 MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Vaqueness of 10 involved. Q. That's fair. I am going to restate. 11 Brett, when did you first become a 12 member of the Firearms Policy Coalition? 13 14 A. I do not remember the exact date. I just know 15 that I recently this year towards the end of 16 August renewed my memberships to multiple organizations. 17 Q. When you say "multiple organizations," do you 18 19 have a number of organizations in your mind? 20 A. Approximately, between three to four. 21 Q. Okay. Can you list them for me? 22 A. Firearms Policy Coalition, Gun Owners of

24 York State Rifle Pistol Association, if I am pronouncing that correctly.

America, Second Amendment Foundation and New

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- Q. Is that also sometimes referred to as NYSRPA?
- A. That would be correct.

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- Q. Do you know if you let your membership of any of these four organizations lapse prior to the end of August of this year?
- A. Not that I am aware of.
 - Q. As it relates to the Firearms Policy
 Coalition, prior to August 2022, can you
 recall how far back were you a member of the
 Firearms Policy Coalition?
- A. I cannot remember the exact timeframe on that.
- Q. Do you recall if you were a member of the Firearms Policy Coalition in the year 2021?
 - A. Approximately, the earliest memory I have would be around the passage of the SAFE Act around 2013, approximately.
 - Q. Is it fair to say that you joined the Firearms Policy Coalition in and around the date of the passage of the New York SAFE Act, S-A-F-E?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. And whether or not it's an accurate recollection, you believe that that was sometime around 2013?
- A. Yes, to the best of my knowledge.
 - Q. What did you have to do in 2013 to become a

- member of the Firearms Policy Coalition?
- A. To the best of my knowledge, I am trying to remember that far back. You had to provide address, name, there was a membership fee.

 Back then I believe I would have just sent cash. I was a little more naive with the mail, if you will.
- Q. Is that it, your address, name and cash?
- A. I believe so, to the best of my knowledge.
- Q. Do you recall between 2013 and August of 2022 renewing your membership at any point in time for the Firearms Policy Coalition?
- A. I cannot remember definitive dates. I do remember sending money.
- Q. On how many occasions between 2013 and

 August 2022 do you recall having sent money to
 the Firearms Policy Coalition?
- A. There would be the yearly membership and then depending on what court cases were going on nationally, I would send extra to help.
- Q. How would you be alerted to yearly membership dues?
 - MR. ROTSKO: I am going to object to the relevance of this line of questioning. I don't see what it has to do with the standing of

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -Mr. Christian during this lawsuit. You can 1 2 answer the question, though. 3 MR. BELKA: Also, the deposition is not 4 limited to issues of standing. His affidavit 5 makes it clear that he is a member of these organizations and I am interested in looking at 6 7 that. 8 MR. ROTSKO: You did request a 9 deposition to address the issues of standing. 10 MR. BELKA: I am going to get -- all 11 right. 12 MR. ROTSKO: And yes, he did testify 13 that he is a member of FPC and he confirmed 14 that for you today. 15 MR. BELKA: Right. 16 THE WITNESS: Can you please ask it 17 again? 18 MR. BELKA: I am going to have the court 19 reporter read it back. 20 21 (The question was read.) 22 23 THE WITNESS: Usually I would get 24 letters, flyers, information packets in the 25 mail.

BY MR. BELKA:

Q. And how would you be alerted to extra court cases that you would be willing to provide extra money for?

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

- A. Either word of mouth or looking online at their website, looking at various cases they are involved in that I would consider to be of importance.
- Q. Did you look at the website of the Firearms

 Policy Coalition before you called and emailed
 to become a plaintiff in this case?
- A. Yes.

- Q. Did you notice any requests for plaintiffs on the Firearms Policy Coalition, to contact them if you wanted to be a plaintiff?
- A. That I did not.
- Q. I just want to be clear. Prior to volunteering to be a plaintiff in this case you had looked at the Firearms Policy Coalition website, correct?
- 21 A. Correct.
 - Q. And you have never seen anything on the Firearms Policy Coalition website that seeks plaintiffs to challenge Second Amendment issues?

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

I have not. I am very tunnel vision focused 1 2 so when I would go to their website right at the top there is the tab and I would ignore 3 4 everything else I see and just click ongoing 5 legal action. 6 Q. Okay. And is it your testimony that the only 7 portion of the Firearms Policy Coalition website that you looked at would be the 8 9 ongoing legal action section? A. Yes. 10 Q. How did you get the contact information in 11 12 order to offer your services as a plaintiff to the Firearms Policy Coalition? 13 14 MR. ROTSKO: Objection to the 15 characterization of what Mr. Christian is doing 16 here. 17 MR. BELKA: You still have to answer. 18 MR. ROTSKO: You may answer. 19 THE WITNESS: Can you ask it again, 20 please? 21 22 (The question was read.) 23 THE WITNESS: A combination of word of 24 25 mouth locally as well as online.

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -BY MR. BELKA: 1 Q. When you say "online," what do you mean? 2 A. Various pro Second Amendment news 3 organizations. 4 5 Q. Do you have those various pro Second Amendment 6 news organizations in your mind at this time? 7 A. Some, but not all. Q. Okay. Can you list for me the ones that you 8 9 have in your mind at this time? 10 A. Thetruthaboutguns.com, Bearingarms.com, as 11 well as YouTube creators, presenters, 12 reporters. I am not sure what the correct 13 phrasing for that would be. 14 O. I think the noun is YouTubers. Does that 15 sound right? 16 A. I could agree to that, yes. Q. Okay. So various YouTubers that you found 17 that are pro Second Amendment? 18 19 A. Correct. Q. Okay. Do you know if any of the -- do you 20 21 know if Thetruthaboutguns.com is affiliated 22 with the Firearms Policy Coalition? 23 A. I do not.

with the Firearms Policy Coalition?

Q. Do you know if Bearingarms.com is affiliated

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A. I do not.

- Q. Do you know if any of the various YouTubers who you have identified are associated with the Firearms Policy Coalition?
- A. I do not.
- Q. Do you know any of the names of those YouTubers?
 - A. There would be Mrgunsngear. That would be one of them. That would be the primary one.

 There was also -- he passed away, but Chuck Yeager was very active as well. There is a YouTuber by the name of Garand Thumb. Him as well.
 - Q. When you called and emailed to offer your services as a plaintiff you mentioned both the Firearms Policy Coalition and the Second Amendment Foundation, correct?
- A. Correct.
 - Q. Do you know which one of them you contacted or -- strike that.

Do you know which one of them you called?

- A. First was Firearms Policy Coalition and then second was the Second Amendment Foundation.
- Q. What was the gap in time between your first

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 call to the Firearms Policy Coalition and your 1 2 second call to the Second Amendment Foundation? 3 4 A. It was same day. 5 MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Did you also call Gun Owners of America? 6 7 Well, that would be same day as well. Did you also call NYSRPA? 8 Ο. 9 A. All on the same day. 10 Q. Did you call any other organizations other than the four that we have discussed? 11 12 A. No. Q. When you called did you talk to an individual 13 14 or leave a voicemail? 15 A. Some were voicemails. Some were individuals 16 that took my information and said someone would contact you back. I also sent to Second 17 Amendment Foundation and Firearms Policy 18 19 Coalition emails as well expressing my 20 interest. 21 Q. What email address did you use to send those 22 emails to Firearms Policy Coalition and Second 23 Amendment Foundation? 24 A. I believe that would be my primary email, 25 Bchristian189@gmail.com.

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

- What's the significance of 189?
- A. It is what Google assigned it when I tried to create it. 3
 - Q. It's fair to say that 189 has no representative meaning to you?
 - That is correct.

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- Q. Did you also email Gun Owners of America?
- I cannot definitively remember either way.
 - Q. And do you recall if you emailed NYSRPA as well?
- I cannot definitively remember either way on that one as well.
 - Q. Okay. When you heard back from John Tienken, did you understand that he was calling on behalf of your -- strike that.

When you heard back from John Tienken, did you understand that he was calling you in response to your calls and emails to Firearms Policy Coalition and the Second Amendment Foundation?

A. Yes.

MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Objection. The communications between Mr. Christian and John Tienken are subject to the attorney-client privilege and the communications between

Mr. Christian and the Firearms Policy Coalition and the Second Amendment Foundation are subject to the work product protections as well as common interest privilege.

So I am going to direct Mr. Christian not to testify to any contents of his communications between he and the other two plaintiffs concerning the litigation or between he and counsel, either Phillips Lytle or Cooper & Kirk, nor to his mental impressions formed after such conversations because that is a way of revealing the contents of those communications.

BY MR. BELKA:

- Q. Do you understand the nature of the lawsuit in which you are a plaintiff?
- A. Yes, I do.
- Q. What is the nature of the lawsuit in which you are a plaintiff?
 - A. It is in regards to parts or sections of the CCIA that have directly effected me that I feel have violated my constitutional rights.

MR. BELKA: Can you read back that answer?

-DEPAOLO CROSBY REPORTING SERVICES, INC.

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -(The answer was read.) 1 2 BY MR. BELKA: 3 4 Q. Other than the parts and sections of the --5 strike that. When you say the CCIA, is that shorthand 6 7 for the Concealed Carry Improvement Act? That would be correct. 8 9 Q. And if I say CCIA, you will understand that I 10 mean the Concealed Carry Improvement Act? A. Correct. 11 Q. Other than the parts and sections of the CCIA 12 13 that you are challenging in this lawsuit, do 14 you believe that any other section of the CCIA 15 violates your constitutional rights? 16 MR. ROTSKO: Objection to the extent it calls for legal conclusions. 17 O. You still have to answer. 18 19 A. Okay. I can only speak --20 MR. ROTSKO: You can answer, Brett. 21 A. Oh, okay. I can only speak on the parts that 22 have directly effected me. I can't speak on 23 the other parts as I don't feel at this time 24 they have effected me with what I do. 25 Q. What are the parts and sections of the CCIA

BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022

- that you have challenged in this lawsuit?
- A. There is the section on how it relates to private property. There is the section on relating to parks in New York State. I apologize. My brain went blank completely for a second.
- Q. That's okay. I will ask it again. What parts or sections of the CCIA have you challenged in this lawsuit?
- A. Parks in New York State, private property and public transportation.
 - Q. Do you recall drafting a declaration regarding the parts and sections of the CCIA that you have challenged in this lawsuit?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. Did you, Brett Christian, physically type the declaration that you submitted in this case?
 - MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Work product privilege.
- O. You still have to answer.
- A. I submitted --
 - MR. ROTSKO: No. No. You don't have to answer. Who types a declaration is --

MR. BELKA: It's a --

BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022

MR. ROTSKO: -- an action taken further into litigation. It's irrelevant as well. He swore to the words.

BY MR. BELKA:

Q. Understanding that your lawyer has directed you not to answer my prior question, did you review the declaration that you submitted in this case -- strike all of that.

Understanding that your counsel has directed you not to answer my question concerning who drafted the declaration, did you have an opportunity to review the declaration you submitted in this case prior to its submission?

- A. Yes. I have reviewed it.
- Q. Okay. And when you reviewed it, what did you do with it?

MR. ROTSKO: Objection. The word what is kind of vague in this context.

O. That's fair.

Where did you first review the declaration that you submitted in this case?

A. I reviewed that in my primary residence and read through it.

- Q. And how did you receive it? In hard copy, by email? How did you get it?
- A. Primarily through email.
- Q. When you say "primarily," why is it qualified?

 Did you receive the declaration by email?
- A. Yes. And then I would sometimes read it in the email and sometimes print it out and then read it.
- Q. Understood. How long did you take to review the declaration you submitted in this case?
- A. Days.

- Q. When you say "days," can you approximate the number of hours you took in reviewing the language of the declaration that was submitted in this case?
- A. I would read it for an hour, hour and a half line-by-line. I would wait, come back to it a couple hours later, maybe the next day and read it again and once I felt -- again, I am not a professional lawyer so sometimes I have to, pardon the phrase, Google legal speak to try and understand because my goal is to have everything as accurate as I possibly can to the best of my knowledge.
- Q. And when you signed the declaration, is it

BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022

fair to say that you made it as accurate as you possibly could to the best of your knowledge?

A. Yes.

- Q. You said that you renewed your membership to the organization Second Amendment Foundation in August of 2022. Do you recall that testimony?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When did you first become a member of the Second Amendment Foundation?
- A. To the best of my knowledge, sometime between within a month either way of the passing of the SAFE Act in 2013.
- Q. And do you recall what materials you submitted related to your membership in 2013 to the Second Amendment Foundation?
- A. That would have been contact information as well as money for having a paid membership.
 - Q. And did you renew your membership to the Second Amendment Foundation between the years 2013 and August 2022?
- A. To the best of my knowledge, yes. There might have been where it lapsed for a year because I forgot due to being busy with work and life.

- Q. Do you have in your mind any definitive dates in which your membership lapsed regarding the Second Amendment Foundation?
- A. I cannot be definitive on that.
- Q. Okay. Do you recall any period of time in which your membership lapsed with regards to the Firearms Policy Coalition?
- A. That I cannot.

- Q. Meaning, you can't recall?
- A. I cannot recall that specific information, no.
- Q. Do you have any reason to believe that your membership lapsed at any point between 2013 and August 2022 regarding your membership to the Firearms Policy Coalition?
 - A. To the best of my knowledge, I cannot guarantee because the U.S. Mail has for some reason had an historically tough time delivering all of my mail to me. So I don't always get everything in the mail in a timely fashion.
 - Q. I am asking if you have any reason to believe that your membership to the Firearms Policy Coalition lapsed between the years 2013 and August 2022?
- A. I don't believe so.

- Q. Do you have any reason to believe that your membership lapsed with regard to the Second Amendment between the years 2013 and August 2022?
- A. I don't believe so.
- Q. In your mind if there is a lapse in membership in either of these two organizations, it was due to ineffective mail carrying?
- A. Correct.
- Q. What is your reasoning to believe that there's a possibility of ineffective mail carrying between the years 2013 and August 2022?
- A. I have lived at different addresses throughout the time.
- Q. That's it?
- 16 A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. As it relates to the sections of the CCIA that you have challenged related to private property, have you been arrested under that provision?
- A. As of currently today, I have not been arrested.
- Q. Have you been approached by law enforcement to arrest you for violations of the CCIA regarding the sections on private property?

A. As of today, I have not.

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- Q. Have you been arrested related to the sections relating to New York State Parks that you have challenged under the CCIA?
- A. As of today, I have not.
- Q. Have you been approached by law enforcement to enforce the New York State Parks provisions of the CCIA?
- A. As of today, I have not.
 - Q. Have you been arrested related to the public transportation sections of the CCIA that you have challenged in this lawsuit?
- A. As of today, I have not.
 - Q. And have you been approached by law enforcement regarding the public transportation sections of the CCIA that you have challenged in this lawsuit?
- A. As of today, I have not.
 - Q. When you say "as of today," you mean from the beginning of the world until today, correct?
 - A. That's correct. I do not have a crystal ball.

 I don't know what tomorrow may bring and I do

 not wish to guess at the future.
 - Q. All right. Do you recall the testimony about reviewing the words in your declaration that

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

you were submitting in this case? 1 2 A. Yes. You mentioned that you would 3 Q. Okay. 4 intermittently review the declaration to 5 assure its accuracy to the best of your 6 knowledge? 7 That's correct. Q. Can you approximate for me the amount of time, 8 9 understanding that it was intermittent, that 10 you took to review the declaration? Objection. Work product. 11 MR. ROTSKO: 12 You can answer that one, though, Brett. 13 A. If I had to estimate to the best of my 14 knowledge as I was not using a stopwatch to 15 keep track, I would put the total time 16 reviewing it between six to eight hours. Q. And that's six to eight hours of reading, 17 Googling, trying to figure out what the words 18 19 say and mean? 20 A. That would be correct. 21 Q. And at the end of six to eight hours of work 22 on the declaration, you felt satisfied that it 23 represented the truth of this matter as it 24 related to you? 25 A. As humanly possible, yes.

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Q. Prior to the renewal of your memberships -- strike that.

Is it fair if I call the four organizations that you renewed your memberships to in August 2022 as gun rights groups?

A. Yes.

- Q. I don't want to be unfair about it. I just want to categorize them and I am offering the term gun rights groups to categorize those four organizations. Is that fair?
- A. I have referred to them as civil rights organizations because I consider what is in the Constitution, the Bills of Rights everybody's civil rights. So I tend to use that phrase more.
- Q. Okay. Is it okay if I say gun rights groups? You will know what I am talking about?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. And if I say gun rights groups, I am talking about these four organizations that you renewed your memberships to in August 2022, okay?
 - A. Understood.
- 25 MR. ROTSKO: I have an objection to the

defined term because to the extent you ask questions about "gun rights groups" and that definition lumps in two other advocacy organizations that are not party to this lawsuit and have nothing to do with Mr. Christian's standing, I don't want the questions to extend to those groups when you are asking about Firearms Policy Coalition and SAF for the sake of clarity.

O. That's fair.

Prior to August 2022, did you have any social media accounts?

A. Yes.

- Q. Where were your social media accounts located prior to August 2022?
- A. I am not quite sure I understand the question.

 I apologize.
 - Q. Do you know what a social media account is?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. What is your understanding of a social media account?
 - A. That would be things like -- I am dating myself, but Myspace, Facebook, Instagram.

 That's -- I am sure there are others. I am not a big computer person for -- I like to

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-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -1 keep my life very private. 2 Q. Understood. Prior to August 2022, did you 3 have any social media accounts? 4 A. Yes. 5 Where did you have those social media Q. Okay. 6 accounts? 7 MR. ROTSKO: Objection to the word where. Where is kind of vaque. 8 9 Q. Fair. I will rephrase. 10 With what organizations did you have social media accounts prior to August 2022? 11 A. That would be Facebook. 12 Q. Prior to August 2022, did you make postings on 13 14 your social media account at Facebook? 15 A. Yes. 16 Q. Prior to August 2022, did you ever post regarding Second Amendment issues on your 17 account at Facebook? 18 A. To the best of my knowledge, I can't 19 20 definitively say either way because I tend to 21 not want to put a lot out there for political 22 opinions or such things. I am trying to think 23 how to phrase it here. Bear with me. 24 Much like bumper stickers on cars 25 putting it out there, you are never going to

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convince someone to an opposing viewpoint where suddenly they see a bumper sticker and change. So to me all it serves to do is cause riffs, stress, fighting amongst people. I tend to just not like to do that.

- Q. Within your consideration of becoming a plaintiff in this lawsuit, did you alter in any way your prior Facebook posts?
- A. Not that I am aware of, to the best of my knowledge.
- Q. Did you or anyone on your behalf review your Facebook posts around the time -- strike that.

In your consideration of becoming a plaintiff in this case, did you or anyone on your behalf alter past Facebook postings?

- A. Not that I am aware of.
- Q. Did you ever provide account information to anyone in order to review your social media posts?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Who did you provide information to -- account information to regarding your social media posts?
- A. Firearms Policy Coalition, my girlfriend. I have had an employer ask to see such things.

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -That was back in the time of Myspace. 1 Q. I want to be clear. I am talking about during 2 the period of time in which you were 3 4 considering becoming a plaintiff in this case 5 did you provide social media account 6 information to anyone? 7 A. Yes. To Firearms Policy Coalition in that timeframe. 8 9 Q. What did you understand the purpose of your 10 providing social media account information to Firearms Policy Coalition? 11 12 MR. ROTSKO: I am going to object to the 13 relevance of Facebook to Mr. Christian's 14 standing, but Brett, feel free to answer the 15 question. 16 MR. BELKA: I am going to have her read 17 it back. 18 19 (The question was read.) 20 21 THE WITNESS: To the best of my 22 knowledge, to verify, because this was 23 primarily email, phone calling, that I was who 24 I said I was. 25

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -BY MR. BELKA: 1 Q. When you say "primarily," do you believe that 2 there was any other reason why you would 3 4 provide social media account information to 5 Firearms Policy Coalition around the time you 6 were considering becoming a plaintiff in this 7 case? A. Not that I am aware of. I do not have reason 8 to believe otherwise. 9 10 Q. And it's your position that you don't know if 11 somebody altered posts on your behalf in and 12 around the time you were considering becoming 13 a plaintiff in this case? 14 MR. ROTSKO: Objection. I don't think 15 that was the testimony. 16 MR. BELKA: I am asking him. MR. ROTSKO: I believe you asked him if 17 18 it was his testimony. 19 MR. BELKA: No. 20 MR. ROTSKO: You can read it back from 21 the reporter. 22 MR. BELKA: We are. 23 24 (The question was read.) 25

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -MR. ROTSKO: So had you asked him 1 2 already about that question? 3 MR. BELKA: I am asking if it's his position now. All right. Would you mind 4 5 reading it back -- I am not asking to confirm 6 prior testimony. I am asking if it's your 7 position, okay? And I want you to read that question back. 8 9 10 (The question was read.) 11 THE WITNESS: That is correct. 12 13 MR. BELKA: We have been going for about 14 Why don't we take a five-minute break an hour. 15 and come back? Is that okay with everyone? 16 MR. ROTSKO: Yep. 17 18 (Recess was taken.) 19 BY MR. BELKA: 20 21 Q. How do you think that the CCIA restricts your 22 rights as it relates to public transportation? 23 A. It prevents me from doing what I previously 24 had done frequently by being able to when 25 traveling the Buffalo subway system, which

- granted not a lot of people know it still exists, going from the suburbs to downtown, being able to carry my firearm with me legally. I no longer can do that based upon what's written in black and white in the New York State Penal Code.
- Q. How would you travel from the suburbs downtown using public transportation?
- A. It would primarily be one of the first three stations. There's either University Station, there is LaSalle and then Amherst Street Station. And then driving, parking somewhere nearby, walking in, paying the 4 or 5 bucks for a round trip ticket and then riding it all the way down to it ends right at Canalside at the arena.
- Q. What kind of car do you own?
- 18 A. Currently, I own a 2023 Honda HR-V.
 - Q. Is that your daily form of transport?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And you can drive your 2023 Honda HR-V downtown if you choose, correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
 - Q. Do you own any other cars?
 - A. No, I do not.

BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 —

- Q. This is only a question as it relates to access to cars, okay?
 - Mr. Christian, are you married?
- A. I am not.
 - Q. Do you have other members of your household?
- 6 A. I am a single person household.
 - Q. So it's fair to say that the only access to a car that you have is the 2023 Honda HR-V that you previously testified to?
- 10 A. That would be correct.
- 11 Q. Okay. You understand why I am asking?
- 12 A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. Prior to your 2023 Honda HR-V, what car did you have?
 - A. The previous one was a 2020 Honda Accord.
- 16 Q. And prior to the 2020 Honda Accord?
- 17 A. That would have been a 2017 Buick LaCrosse.
- Q. I am just going to go one more back. What was before the 2017 Buick LaCrosse?
 - A. That was a 2013 Buick Regal GS. I can go back to the first car that I had, if need be.
 - Q. I am just trying to go back in time a little bit. It appears you get a car approximately every three years. Does that sound right?
 - A. Approximately so, yes.

- Q. Okay. And the 2014 Buick Regal GS, was that your daily transport at that time?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And could the 2014 Buick Regal GS drive downtown?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. When you had the 2017 Buick LaCrosse, was that your daily transport?
 - A. That would be correct.
- Q. And could the 2017 Buick LaCrosse travel downtown?
- 12 A. That would be correct.
- Q. Okay. And when you had the 2020 Honda Accord, was that your daily transport?
- 15 A. Yes.
- Q. And could the 2020 Honda Accord travel downtown?
 - A. Mechanically, yes. However, the theft of the wheels that come equipped on the model I had is -- the rate of theft is obscene to the wheels and that car I tended to not want to drive as much downtown because based upon experiences at my job, that there would be a great likelihood I would find it up on blocks as we have had many occurrences at work.

Q. Where is your job?

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- A. Currently, it is at Ray Laks Honda in Orchard

 Park.
 - Q. How do you spell Ray Laks?
 - A. R-A-Y, space, L-A-K-S.
 - Q. And were the tires -- strike that.

What part of the 2020 Honda Accord was often stolen pursuant to anecdotes from your work?

- A. In the last year we have had almost \$40,000 of damage done to vehicles because the model I had, the sport model that had 19-inch very attractive low profile sporty wheels, it is among the most stolen wheels in the country. In one year it was almost \$40,000 of wheels going missing due to theft.
- Q. And did you ever have the wheels on your 2020 Honda Accord stolen?
 - A. I did not because I would be very cautious about where I took the car and where I would park the car because of that reason.
 - Q. Regardless, the 2020 Honda Accord could get you downtown if you so chose?
 - A. Mechanically it could, yes.
- Q. You mentioned that there are three locations

-- strike that.

When you go on public transport from the suburbs downtown, what method of public transport do you take?

- A. That would primarily be the subway system.
- Q. What kind of subway system do we have in Buffalo?
- A. We have -- of the original design and plans, we only have a single line subway that runs from the -- the University of Buffalo is adjacent to it. I don't want to call it city campus. It would be south campus I guess off Main Street in Amherst. That's the furthest point and then it runs in a single line all the way out to almost where -- just a little bit past where we are now by Canalside.
- Q. All right. If I refer to the public transport method that you would regularly use from the suburbs to downtown, if I call that the Buffalo Light Rail, would we be talking about the same thing?
- A. That would be correct.
- Q. Okay. You mentioned three locations which you might sometimes board to get on the Buffalo Light Rail; is that right?

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A. That is correct.

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- Q. What were those three locations again?
- A. University Station, LaSalle Street Station and Amherst Street Station. I believe that's how the Amherst one is pronounced.
 - Q. And how do you get yourself to University Station to take the Buffalo Light Rail?
 - A. I would drive my car up Main Street from my place of residence or wherever I would be, park either in the NFTA -- they have a ride and park, a commuter lot. I would either park there or I would park at -- there is a coffee shop further up from there on Main Street.

 There's a supermarket. Depending on if I was, say, getting a cup of coffee to take with me and then walk across to the station entrance.
- Q. What's the name of that coffee shop?
- A. It is Dunkin' Donuts.
- Q. And what's the name of the supermarket?
- 20 A. I believe it is Tops.
- Q. Does it cost money to leave your car in the NFTA Ride and Park?
 - A. It does not.
 - Q. Does it cost any money to leave your car at the Dunkin' Donuts parking lot?

A. It does not.

- Q. And does it cost any money to leave your car at the Tops supermarket parking lot?
- A. It does not.
- Q. Which of the three, NFTA Ride and Park commuter lot, the Dunkin' Donuts coffee shop and the Tops supermarket is closest in proximity to the University Station?
- A. That would be the NFTA Ride and Park commuter lot. It is directly adjacent, if not part of it.
- Q. Okay. And next in proximity between the three?
 - A. That would be the Dunkin' Donuts coffee shop, coffeehouse. I don't know the exact wording, but Dunkin' Donuts.
 - Q. Okay. And then it's your testimony then that the Tops supermarket is the furthest in distance from the University Station?
- A. Correct.
 - Q. Where do you buy a ticket to ride the Buffalo Light Rail at University Station?
 - A. When you walk in the entrance, there are automated ticket like vending machines, for lack of a better word. And you can use cash,

- which is primarily what I use, and that's where you purchase your ticket to get through the -- I don't want to say turnstiles, but gate doors to go down the escalator to the station platform.
- Q. When you purchase a ticket at the automated machine, what does that ticket look like?
- A. It is like a very fat letter H. It has an indentation on the one side and an indentation on the other. So it looks like a big letter H. It has like a bar code strip and then something square, sparkly -- I don't want to say a hologram, but something sort of of that type.
- Q. Is it fair to say that you provided your best recollection of what a ticket purchased at University Station might look like for the Buffalo Light Rail?
- A. Yes. I don't know what to call that exact thing, but it's like a hologram. It's sparkly. This is the one from the last trip.
- Q. All right. And since you have it with you, why don't I take that? Do you need this after today?
- A. No. Because they are one way -- they are

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 round trip tickets good for just that day. 1 2 MR. BELKA: Okay. So we are going to 3 mark Mr. Christian's Buffalo Light Rail ticket 4 as Exhibit Number 1. Any objection, Nick? 5 MR. ROTSKO: No. 6 7 The following were marked for identification: Exhibit 1 - NFTA subway ticket 8 9 10 MR. ROTSKO: We can have photocopies made of that while he's there. 11 12 MR. BELKA: Sure. 13 14 BY MR. BELKA: 15 Q. I am handing you what's been marked as 16 Exhibit 1 to your deposition. It's an NFTA Light Rail pass. Do you see it? 17 A. Yes. 18 19 Q. Okay. And --20 MR. ROTSKO: Ryan, if I may interject 21 for a moment. 22 MR. BELKA: Sure. 23 MR. ROTSKO: Because I can't see that 24 ticket, I am going to give my objecting 25 capabilities to Sam for a moment to make sure

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 that the discussion about the ticket is 1 2 accurate. MR. BELKA: I accept. 3 Thanks for 4 creating an accommodation because it's unusual. 5 MR. ROTSKO: I can't figure out how to 6 get that up on WebEx. 7 BY MR. BELKA: 8 9 Q. An NFTA Light Rail ticket has been placed in 10 front of you. It's Exhibit 1 to your 11 deposition. Do you see it? A. I do. 12 13 Q. What's the date on that Light Rail ticket? 14 A. It was this past Sunday, the 13th. 15 Q. You are downtown today. You didn't take the 16 Light Rail; is that right? 17 A. Correct. Q. Okay. What car did you drive to get downtown 18 19 today? 20 A. My 2023 Honda HR-V. 21 Q. Do you have a gun on you? 22 A. I do not. 23 Q. Why not? 24 The CCIA prevents me from doing so. Α. 25 Q. Is that because Phillips Lytle prevented you

- from bringing a concealed weapon onto their property?
- A. I was unable to bring one with me on person because I have never been in this building before and I don't know what signs are posted on the property. And if I brought it with me, I would have already entered the property before I would see the signs and, thus, I would have broken the law. So without having that definitive knowledge of it as explicitly stated on a sign that it is allowed, I chose to leave it at home.
- Q. These are your lawyers. You could have called ahead and asked what their concealed carry policy is, correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Do you own a phone?
- 18 A. I do.

- Q. Do you know how to use it?
- 20 A. Yes.
 - Q. Do you think you could have used your phone to acquire that information from your lawyers?
 - A. I am unsure because I don't know who the property owner is and the way that it reads, I would have to first figure out who the

BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

- property owner is. And with the timeframe of I did not know weeks or months in advance of the exact location, I wasn't able to in time determine that.
- Q. When did you first learn about this deposition?
- A. I learned that it may be a thing that would need to happen roughly, approximately a couple weeks ago. However, the exact date, time, this is the address at this time, be here, that was -- the address was provided this morning to me. The time was provided to me on Monday.
- Q. Have you ever called your lawyers -- this has nothing to do with attorney-client.
 - Have you ever called your lawyers to ask them a question?
- 18 A. Yes.

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- Q. Do you feel like you need permission to call your lawyers?
- 21 A. No, I do not.
 - Q. Could you have called your lawyers and asked the policy about concealed carry in the building you would have been entering today?
 - A. Yes. That could have been a possibility.

- Q. And do you think your lawyers would have told you the correct information as to their policy on concealed carry today?
- A. Yes. I believe they would have.
- Q. As it relates to public transportation, you note that you take the NFTA Metro Rail, which I have referred to as the NFTA Light Rail, when traffic or events downtown made driving impractical. Do you recall that testimony?
- A. Yes, I do.

- Q. In your mind, when does traffic make driving downtown impractical?
- A. Monday through Friday and when major events like Sabres games, Taste of Buffalo and events such as those are going on, traffic is quite heavy at those times.
- Q. How do you know traffic is heavy on Monday through Friday during Sabres games?
- A. I have previously been to Sabres games.

 Either work -- the company that I work for has provided tickets for events as well as through the week I have made trips down here to go to either the Erie County Clerks's Office for adding an amendment or removing an amendment to my permit or to stop in to ask

clarification about questions I have to make sure I am doing things the proper way.

But between the 190 and the 33, it is -the 33 in the morning you want to get here
before 6:00 a.m. because it gets very accident
prone and then throughout the day by noon,
1 o'clock, it starts to pick up quite a bit
into the evening. Not discounting Buffalo, of
course, weather events we may have.

- Q. Prior to August 2022, how often would you ride the Buffalo Light Rail?
- A. Approximately two to three times a month, if not more.
- Q. Is the Buffalo Light Rail the only form of -- strike that.

Is the Buffalo Light Rail the only form of public transportation that you regularly take?

- A. That would be correct.
- Q. Is it fair to say -- I am looking at Exhibit 1 now. November 13th, 2022 was the last time you used the Buffalo Light Rail?
- A. Correct.

Q. What event made it impractical to go downtown using your car on November 13th, 2022?

- A. A combination of even with a Honda the price of gas as well as the convenience from University Station to Canalside, the last exit, is almost precisely 20 minutes. It's faster to do that than it is to drive, find a parking spot, pay for parking if it's through the week. Weekends sometimes things are free. It's simply a matter of this is faster and easier. I don't have to worry and deal with the hassle of it.
- Q. Your affidavit -- strike that.

Your declaration says that you take the Buffalo Light Rail when traffic or events downtown make driving impractical, correct?

A. Correct.

- Q. When you took the Buffalo Light Rail on November 13th, was that due to traffic or events downtown?
- 19 A. That was due to --

MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Asked and answered.

- Q. You still have to answer.
- A. An event in Orchard Park, not downtown.

 Everybody is on the thruway and the 33 headed to the Bills game around that time.

- Q. Where were you coming from when you took the Buffalo Light Rail on November 13th, 2022?
- A. I left my primary -- my home, my place of residence, went up Main Street, parked in the ride and park section, walked in the entrance and got on the subway system, the Light Rail at the University Station there.
- Q. Is it fair to say that the Bills game was the event that caused you to take the Light Rail on November 13th, 2022?
- A. The primary motivation for that time, correct.
- Q. Because you were worried about the traffic?
- 13 A. Correct.

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- Q. On November 13th, 2022 did you see any NFTA police officers on the Buffalo Light Rail?
- A. No, I did not.
- Q. On November 13th, 2022 did you see any New York State police officers on the Buffalo Light Rail?
- 20 A. No, I did not.
- Q. Have you ever in the periods of time that you have taken the Buffalo Light Rail seen a New York State police officer?
- A. Not on the Light Rail.
- 25 Q. Is it fair to say that New York State police

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 officers -- strike that. 1 2 As of Sunday, November 13th, 2022, you understood that you had a deposition upcoming 3 4 in this case, correct? 5 A. Correct. 6 Q. Did you -- strike that. 7 Did anyone suggest to you that you should take the Buffalo Light Rail in 8 9 preparation for your deposition today? 10 A. No. 11 MR. ROTSKO: Objection to the extent that it calls for attorney-client 12 communications. He has answered the question. 13 14 Q. Of the three stations from which you usually 15 take the Buffalo Light Rail, University 16 Station, LaSalle Station and Amherst Street Station, which one of those is the station 17 from which you most regularly depart? 18 A. Most regularly would be University Station 19 because it is the most accessible and closest. 20 21 Q. And of the three, University, LaSalle and Amherst Stations, which one do you go to the 22 23 second most? A. That would be LaSalle. 24 25 Q. And by reasons of deduction, the third most

frequented station is Amherst Street Station, correct?

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

- Q. Your prior testimony was that you paid 4 or 5 bucks for an NFTA Rail pass. Do you know whether or not it's 4 or 5?
- A. I want to say it is approximately 4 bucks for a round trip ticket.
- Q. Each time you ride the Buffalo Light Rail, you pay for it on that individual trip, correct?
- A. Correct.

A. Correct.

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- Q. And at two to three trips a month over a period of time, you are pretty regularly paying for single round trip tickets on the Buffalo Light Rail?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And while you think it's \$4, you also believe that it could be 5?
- A. If you get an all day pass, it's more. I

 don't frequently do that. I usually just do

 the one round trip. The round trip might be

 4 and a penny or I don't remember if there's

 tax on it.
 - Q. Who do you hand your ticket to when you get on the Buffalo Light Rail?

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A. It's an unmanned system. When you walk through there is -- it used to be turnstiles. They have little dividers and there's two little door gates and there is a clear lens on what would have been a turnstile. You put the ticket over it, it reads it, it allows the gate to unlock and one person, you just push through. They are like saloon doors to use a laymen's term.

And then when you go to leave out of the underground stations, because that is the paid portion, you have to do the same thing to be able to exit. The above ground, from what I understand -- they are never my starting point, but those are all free.

- Q. And I asked this. The type of public transport that you take is the Buffalo Light Rail?
- A. Primary type, correct.
- Q. Okay. And when you say "primary type," what are the other types of public transport that you take?
- A. I may have in the last ten years once or twice taken public buses. I can't definitively remember either way and I don't want to guess.

- Q. But in Buffalo on the NFTA system, right?
- 2 A. Correct.

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- Q. Approximately when did you become licensed to carry a firearm in the State of New York?
 - A. Approximately somewhere between two to three years ago for a New York State concealed carry license.
 - Q. Did you have some other type of pistol permit prior to the concealed carry permit that you acquired two to three years ago?
- 11 A. No, I did not.
- 12 Q. How old are you?
 - A. 40. I feel old for saying that.
- Q. Do you know at what age you can begin to have a pistol permit in New York State?
 - A. There's two answers to that. For 99 percent of people it is 21. I believe members of the U.S. Military that are active and serving can get one between 18 and 21, but I don't know anybody that ever has.
 - Q. And you are not an active member of the U.S. Military?
 - A. I am not.
 - Q. So the earliest you could have received some type of pistol permit in New York State is 21?

- A. Correct.
- Q. And is it fair to say from the ages of 21 to 37 you did not have any type of New York State pistol permit?
- A. Yes.

- Q. When you applied for your concealed carry permit two to three years ago, was it granted?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Did you have any guns that were registered with New York State at the time you received your concealed carry permit?
- A. I had no pistols because there's no way to acquire, own, possess one in New York without one. I have lived in New York my whole life. For long guns I did not acquire any long guns that would have required SAFE Act registration when the SAFE Act took effect. So I had nothing that was registered then that was required per the law.
- Q. So prior to having the concealed carry license, you did own and possess firearms?
- A. Long guns, correct.
- Q. How many long --
- MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Just to be clear on the terminology, when we say

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -"firearms," are we using the Penal Code 1 definition of firearms? 2 3 MR. BELKA: I am about to drill down a 4 little bit. Is that okay? Why don't you just 5 object to vaqueness or something? Just say Belka didn't define firearms, he's awful. 6 Just 7 put it on the record. We will keep going. MR. ROTSKO: Please don't put on the 8 9 record that I said that Mr. Belka is awful. 10 That was him. Go ahead, Ryan. 11 BY MR. BELKA: 12 Q. Okay. Between the ages of 21 and 37 you 13 14 didn't own any pistols? 15 A. That's correct. 16 Q. You had no pistol permit in the State of New 17 York? A. Correct. 18 19 Q. At approximately the age of 37 you acquired a 20 concealed carry permit? 21 A. Correct. 22 Q. Or concealed carry license? 23 A. License. 24 Q. Okay. After which you acquired some pistols? 25 A. That's correct.

- Q. Okay. Prior to receiving the concealed carry license, you have testified that you owned long guns?
- A. Correct.

- Q. Okay. How many long guns did you own at the time you acquired the concealed carry license?
- A. Approximately, the number would be around a dozen.
- Q. It's a gun case so I am going to ask you about these guns, okay? As it relates to these approximately a dozen long guns, can you name the type and manufacturer of each weapon?
- A. Most of them I can.
- Q. Go ahead. Number one?
 - A. Let me preface that. In New York there's almost -- in Erie County there's no place I know of to even rent a gun to try out. You have to acquire it first. So a lot of times I would go through the process of acquiring a gun to then use it for target shooting or whatever purpose and then I would find out that I hated it or back then I had a collector's license, an FFL license for the pure purpose of collecting curios, relics, historical. I was much more involved with

- that then. So I had a Remington 870 shotgun at one point.
- Q. So I am not asking at any point in time. I am asking if you can to the best of your knowledge recall the dozen or so long guns that you had at the time you acquired your concealed carry license.
- A. I had --

- MR. ROTSKO: Objection to the relevance of long guns to this lawsuit. Go ahead and answer.
- A. I had a New York compliant Springfield Armory M1A. I had --
- Q. Before you go on, what does New York compliant mean?
- A. The firearm in its original configuration would violate the New York SAFE Act and would not be legal to have transferred to you or possess. So in order for me to acquire it, the previous owner had a federal firearms store, license. I don't know the correct wording there. They permanently affixed the magazine to the firearm, thus it was not a detachable magazine and thus met what the law spelled out.

- Q. Go ahead. We have a Remington 870 and a Springfield M1A.
- A. I had a CZ. It's a Czechoslovakian company, Scorpion Evo, nine-millimeter pistol caliber carbine. I had a Savage Arms 110 Target Magnum target rifle, a Mossberg 500 shotgun and then a bolt action operated AR style firearm.
- Q. When you say "AR style," what does that mean?
- 10 A. It is --

- Q. What does AR stand for?
- A. AR is a trademark term meaning ArmaLite rifle and then it would be Model 15. It has come to mean a whole category of firearms that are that type or that pattern.
 - Q. I am just asking what it meant to you.
- A. Okay.
- Q. So an ArmaLite rifle. There was a number in there.
 - A. It was -- the lower receiver was a different manufacturer from the upper. The upper is Young Manufacturing. I sourced all the parts and assembled it. The lower was Anderson and the gun I went out of my way to get a barrel that had no provisions for a gas port, so

there was no way the firearm could ever be made to be semiautomatic and had it equipped with a bolt handle allowing you to manually -- like any other hunting rifle or target rifle, you have to manually cycle each round.

I went through considerable expense to acquire that and make that happen. Those are the ones that I can definitively in my head remember.

- Q. Okay. So, I mean, I was counting. So I have six out of approximately a dozen long guns that you believe you possessed at the time you acquired your concealed carry license in the State of New York.
- A. There's others, but I can't remember the exact make or manufacturer so I don't want to guess.
 - Q. When you received your concealed carry license, did you disclose or register any of your firearms on your concealed carry license?
 - A. For long guns, no because none of them were required per New York State Law.
 - Q. Since receiving your concealed carry license, you have acquired and registered a number of pistols?
 - A. Pistols and revolvers. I have noticed New

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -York State -- to me that would mean the same 1 2 thing, a handgun, but New York State on the license and Penal Code differentiates them. 3 4 So both pistols and revolvers. 5 Do we want to use the word handgun in 6 order to encompass both of those? 7 Yes. Α. Q. Sounds great. How many handguns have you 8 9 acquired since you received your concealed 10 carry license from the State of New York? A. Bought and sold -- I currently have 11. 11 12 have probably bought and sold, trying out to see what works and doesn't work for me, 13 14 between 20 or 25, but that is an 15 approximation. That's my best estimate. 16 Q. But you currently own 11? 11, that's correct. 17 Α. Q. Handguns? 18 19 A. Correct. 20 Q. How many long guns do you currently own? 21 A. Currently, four. 22 Q. Prior to your receipt of the -- strike that.

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Prior to the granting of your concealed

carry license by New York State, did you own

any handguns, the definition of which includes

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pistols and revolvers.

- A. No. I had not even shot one.
- Q. Why did you acquire a concealed carry license approximately two to three years ago?
- A. When I applied and put in for the license and asked for unrestricted, which was granted, I have family -- less now because some have passed away, but I have a good portion of family that lives in Upstate New York;

 Massena, Malone area, Moira, Brushton. If anybody has ever heard of those areas, it is amazing because it's just the middle of nowhere.
- Q. St. Lawrence County?
- A. Yes. I also at the time worked with a friend, Austin. His family and other friends have had property in the Southern Tier going down towards Gowanda, Gerry. I am not sure how to say that town correctly. So I would travel, again liking to experience New York. It is a beautiful outdoor state. It is gorgeous and traveling when I would go hiking, when I would go to Upstate New York to my family, Vicky and John Maloney. They have passed away. Their daughter, Melissa, has inherited the property.

It has to be between 200 and 400 acres they have up there of just pristine woodlands. It is not developed, not anything. I would go up there, go hiking. Up there I have encountered coyotes, wild turkeys.

Going down towards Gowanda, Allegany, that Southern Tier Chautauqua area, I have encountered black bears. Granted, New York does not have grizzly bears, thankfully, and I have had encounters multiple times with wild life and, you know, it started to make me worry for my safety because I would be out, it would be remote.

Especially Upstate New York, not until very recently did they start having reliable cell service in those areas. So I would be out by myself and have encounters. Luckily, I was able to stay safe, but did not have a guarantee that that would always be the case.

- Q. Aren't you on private land in Malone?
- A. Yes. Up there --
- Q. That's the only question. And when you went down to Chautauqua area, were you also on private land?
- A. The Southern Tier was a mix.

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- Q. Who owned the property in Malone again?
- 2 A. My friend Austin.

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- O. No. No. In Malone.
- A. In Malone it was my Aunt Vicky and Uncle John, last name Maloney.
 - Q. Oh, I am saying Malone, but Maloney is the last name?
 - A. They lived right around Moira. It all bleeds together up there.
 - Q. Okay. But either way, when you are up in St.

 Lawrence County, you are on private property

 and there's an heir. And what's her name?
 - A. Melissa.
 - Q. Melissa, okay.
- The land that you are talking about in

 Upstate New York, St. Lawrence County is

 private property, right?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And Melissa, does she allow you to have weapons on that private property?
 - A. When her parents passed away, we no longer remained talking. I haven't been to that part of New York State, that specific part since.
 - Q. When did they pass away?
- 25 A. My Aunt Vicky passed away in 2017 and then my

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- Uncle John passed away, I want to say approximately -- without looking at his obituary, maybe a year ago, if not a little sooner.
- Q. But it doesn't sound like there's many future trips in the plans to Upstate New York to visit Melissa?
- A. To that specific region, no. Because I have more transitioned to publicly accessible regions where if a property owner passes away, I suddenly wouldn't lose the right or the ability to access that area.
- Q. Do you believe that the property owner should have the right to tell you not to access their property if you are carrying a weapon?

 MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Calls for speculation.
- Q. You still have to answer.
- A. Oh, okay. I didn't know. It would be up to the -- I believe it would be up to the property owner to tell me that they don't want to, not tell me that I am allowed to.
 - Q. But you believe that a private property owner can prevent you from carriage on their land?
 - A. Yes. If they were to ask me.

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -Do you think you should be able to 1 Q. Okay. 2 enter their land and not disclose that you are concealing a weapon? 3 4 MR. ROTSKO: Objection to relevance. 5 You can answer. 6 THE WITNESS: Can you repeat it, please? 7 (The question was read.) 8 9 10 THE WITNESS: Yes. Unless they ask me. 11 BY MR. BELKA: 12 Q. Brett, is it your belief that you can come to 13 14 my house and conceal a weapon on my property 15 and not disclose that you are doing so? 16 A. Yes. Unless you ask me to leave, and then I should leave immediately. 17 MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Just for 18 19 clarification, are we asking for philosophical 20 beliefs here or are you asking whether he --21 are you asking him for a legal conclusion or 22 his preference? 23 MR. BELKA: I am asking the least 24 objectionable of those questions. I am not 25 going to clarify. The record is going to be

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 what it is. 1 2 MR. ROTSKO: Brett, if you need to ask for clarification, feel free to do so. 3 4 MR. BELKA: He nodded yes that he 5 understands, right? THE WITNESS: Yes. I understand. 6 7 MR. ROTSKO: You understand that --MR. BELKA: Nick, Nick, Nick, we are 8 9 done there, okay? You have already provided 10 information to him. If he wants to clarify a 11 question, he can. Nobody is preventing him 12 from doing so, okay? Nick, the record is going 13 to be what it is. 14 MR. ROTSKO: Proceed. 15 MR. BELKA: Thanks. 16 BY MR. BELKA: 17 Q. Your declaration explains that you submitted a 18 19 request for time off for a planned trip to the 20 Adirondacks. Do you recall that? 21 A. Yes. 22 Q. We have gone over who your employer is, but 23 remind me. 24 A. Ray Laks Honda in Orchard Park. 25 Q. Okay. And what do you do there?

- A. My official job title is recon manager.
- Q. You repo cars?
- A. Recon.

- Q. I understand. I don't know what that means. What does that mean?
- A. So essentially outside of financing a car, office administrative work, selling a car or being a service writer, when you bring your car in for service, everything else of the business goes through me and I handle and oversee and keep everything on track: New cars coming in, new cars being sold going out, used cars coming in, stocking them in, getting them into the shop, what work do they need, sourcing parts, sending them out for repair.

If you bring your car as a customer in to get work done, I dispatch it to the technician. Overseeing the technicians in the shop, working with the parts department, coordinating customer delivers for sale staff. General keeping an eye on the place, protecting the business interest. Mr. Used Car Manager, this car -- because of the condition of it, yes, it technically meets the letter of the law for New York State

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inspection, but it would put yourself at future liability selling this as a retailable [sic] piece, look out for the business.

We just had three Accord -- speaking to a manager, we just had three Accord Sports get put on cinder blocks and all sets of wheels taken. It did massive amounts of damage to the cars and the theft of the property. We should probably start having the sale staff bring that model of car, which I owned, inside the shop so it is locked inside the building. Try to reduce the theft, make sure the lights are on, make sure the light timers.

We are going into what could be a snowstorm very soon in the next couple days. Do the two plow trucks have the plows attached, are they fueled up, are all the lights working so you can see, do the wipers work, they are mechanically good, all right? Make sure that they are detailed. You have to pull them in every night. Our shuttle, if you come in to get your car worked on at 8 o'clock in the morning and you need to be to work by 8:05, the shuttle better be inside so it's defrosted ready to go.

So it's a massive amount of coordination, management, overseeing. It's a mix of everything. It keeps the business profitable, sustainable and afloat and productive and that is the short version.

- Q. Understood. In your declaration you note that you submitted a request for time off for a couple of days in November 2022 and the idea of that was to visit the Adirondack Park, right?
- A. That's correct.

- Q. Okay. And who is your supervisor to whom you submitted this time-off request?
- A. At the time we just in the last three weeks changed that personnel there. That would have been John Cahalan. His name is tough so --
- Q. It's okay. I just want to be clear. I am asking you who -- so your declaration says I submitted a time-off request at my place of employment, okay? And I want to know to whom you submitted that time-off request?
- A. Verbally to him and then put it in through -they use a program called Workday. He writes
 it -- well, when he was there, he wrote it
 also on his day planner. He would mark off on

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- the calendar who is off so that way you didn't have multiple people in the same department off at the same time.
- Q. Okay. And just for clarity of the record, you said "verbally to him." Who is the him to which you are referring?
- A. John Cahalan.
- Q. Okay. And your declaration says a couple of days in November 2022, right?
- 10 A. Correct.

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- Q. Okay. Now, you went through a very long detailed description of the kinds of work that you do for this job, right?
- 14 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. And presumably a time-off request is for a time specific?
- 17 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. Now, you don't provide a specific time
 in your declaration. You say a couple of days
 in November '22.
 - A. I had taken off -- Wednesday is my normal day off work through the week. Next week

 Wednesday I put in to have the 23rd off. We are closed for Thanksgiving, the 24th. I put in to have Thursday and Friday off work, which

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- I have never done. So that way I could leave town on Wednesday, go through Thanksgiving Day into the weekend, return Sunday and then resume work.
- Q. Why not put the specific dates in your declaration that you worked on for six to eight hours to make sure it was an accurate representation in this case?

MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Arguing with the witnesses.

- Q. You still have to answer.
- A. I am not a legal person. I am not a licensed lawyer with the bar. I didn't know -- I have never been down this path before.
- Q. At the time you wrote the declaration, did you know the very specific days that you were requesting time off for?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Is it fair to say that you did not include those days in your declaration?
- A. Yes. I omitted the exact dates.
 - Q. Your declaration says that you canceled your trip to the Adirondack Park because of the CCIA, right?
- 25 A. Correct.

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Q. And why do you feel -- strike that.

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- Why did you feel it necessary to cancel your trip to the Adirondack Park because of the CCIA?
- A. To get to the Adirondacks it's approximately 5 hours and 15 minutes of travel time, 6 hours and 15 minutes of travel time if you don't go the thruway. Sometimes the side roads are nice, slower pace, less traffic. So with the way the CCIA is, the way it is written in black and white which is what I believe to be the law, if I was to go on the trip, bring with me my pistol and I am carrying it because it is easier to keep it in a holster on your person, less likelihood of getting it stolen because you left it somewhere, I would have to know in advance every restaurant that I may decide to get food at or every gas station. And then if I ended up instead of bringing a sleeping bag and sleeping in the car as I sometimes do, if I went the route of this time I will get a hotel, knowing all the property owner's policies ahead to be compliant and legal, it -- too daunting, if you will.
- Q. Your declaration to me implies that you

- thought that the CCIA applied to the Adirondack Park. Was that your understanding at the time you signed your declaration?
- A. When I signed it at the time, that was my full belief. However, New York State political leaders have said now that it doesn't apply, but I don't see anything in writing. So I am unsure of New York State Government's stance in that regard.
- Q. You understand it has been represented in this lawsuit that the CCIA does not apply to Adirondack Park, right?
- A. That's what I have heard. However, when I go to the Penal Code and I look it up, I haven't seen the legislature make any changes, make any addendums, amendments, corrections in that regard. And I have to believe the law enforcement has no legal obligation to protect me.

Their duty is to enforce the law and catch criminals per the Supreme Court case that happened out of Ohio. I want to say Akron. I don't remember the exact name. I would have to look it up, but because of that I would have to believe any law enforcement

- professional whether they are New York State
 Park rangers, DEC, if they are New York State
 Police, local sheriff, local town, they would
 go by this is what's written as the law, this
 is, therefore, what we must enforce if someone
 is violating it.
- Q. So at least as it relates to the Adirondack Park, the statement of political leaders on how the CCIA applies is not enough for you?
- A. Correct. Let me add --
- 11 Q. No.

- 12 A. Okay. Sorry.
- Q. Actually, sorry. You should be able to add.

 Go ahead. I didn't mean to cut you off.
 - A. If I were to go ahead and go there and carry and a law enforcement professional were to observe me and stop me and question me and find that I was carrying, I don't believe that they would find it a sufficient defense or justification to say, well, the Governor or the Attorney General of New York or the head of the State Police has said this --
 - Q. Right.
 - A. -- you know, in a TV interview. Much like people I know now that are going through the

permitting process, the way the law is written it says everybody needs the new training requirement and other requirements. To have, again, politicians who are elected representatives and heads of various departments say, well, we only interpret that or we only mean it applies to downstate counties like Suffolk, Nassau, Westchester and the boroughs and New York City, again, I look at it and I tell people they can say what they want but what's actually written in the law, that's the standard you are held to and this is what it says currently.

- Q. Right. So in the case of Adirondack Park, right, you would not be comforted by the statements of political leaders or the leader of the State Police that Adirondack Park is not -- that we are not going to enforce the CCIA in Adirondack Park, right?
- A. Correct.

- Q. What kind of plans did you make to go to
 Adirondack Park in the period of time around
 Thanksgiving 2022? What firm plans did you
 make?
- A. I had firm plans, definitive plans. My plans

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were to travel to the west central region which is northeast of like Rome, New York. I would go up. There's a trail there that I really do enjoy, Tillman. There's also one -- there's a parking area for Blue Mountain off of Route 28 or 8. Without looking at a map, I do sometimes jumble those. You park there and I want to say it's Swallow or Smoky Mountain Trail, but Tillman is the primary one that I have enjoyed in that region.

So I made plans. I would take my SUV or Sport Utility Vehicle, fold the seat down, throw a sleeping bag in the back. I can sleep in the car if need be, but if you leave at 5:00 in the morning, drive the legal speed limit, go there, get gas, stop for fast food, you are there about 10:30, 11:00. The trail is a couple miles long; you enjoy it. Say you leave by 4:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m. before it starts to get absolutely pitch black, you are back before midnight. So I can make a day of it if I want to go there and back in one day.

Having a couple days off I had gotten excited that, you know what, I have a great sleeping bag with a plaid design interior.

- would stay warm. It's not that cold yet and just kind of camp out.
- Q. So no hotel plans, right?
- A. On this trip, no.
- Q. Right. So you didn't have any particular place that you were for sure going to stay in the Adirondack trip that was going to happen in and around Thanksgiving this year?
- A. Correct.

- Q. Okay. And did you have a definitive arrival and departure date?
- A. Wednesday the 23rd would have been the departure date being the first day off work staying through either Friday or Saturday and then returning. New York State weather dependent of course. I did get stuck once for an extra day once up near Lake Piseco in New York State.
- Q. Okay. But getting to the departure date just because I know you were at Wednesday the 23rd, the coming back date of -- just help me out with the math.
- A. Either Friday the 25th or Saturday the 26th and then that gives me a day to get ready to return to work.

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -Q. Because you wouldn't work Sunday? 1 2 A. Sunday, correct. Q. But either way you didn't make this trip 3 4 despite political leaders and the 5 representations that have been made in this case because that's not enough for you to be 6 7 assured that the CCIA wouldn't be enforced in Adirondack Park? 8 9 A. Correct. 10 MR. BELKA: Okay. Let's take a break. Five minutes. 11 12 13 (Recess was taken.) 14 15 BY MR. BELKA: 16 Q. One of the paragraphs in your declaration mentions that you would sometimes walk in 17 local parks. Do you recall that statement? 18 19 A. Yes. Q. I mean, I will read it to you. "Carry my 20 21 firearm for self-defense while walking in local parks or when hiking on trails in 22 23 largely wooded and marshy areas a few times 24 each month." Do you recall that? 25 A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. Similar to failing to provide the dates on which you would have made your trip to the Adirondacks, you don't mention which local parks you would carry for in self-defense. Is that fair?
- A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. Can you tell me what local parks you are referring to in your declaration?
- A. Yes. The primary ones, but not all of them, are Stiglmeier Park in Cheektowaga because of being close to where I live, parts of the Clarence Bike Path which are actually two trails running from Amherst off of Transit Road into Clarence. If you remember the bike path rapist, that's where that stuff happened. The other one would be there's a Shoreline Trail running from the north side of Buffalo where Sheridan Drive approximately hits the 190 and it runs up through where -- or sorry, where Sheridan Drive hits the 290, sorry. And that runs from there up to -- or I am getting my roads confused. I am sorry.

The 190 goes around Buffalo. Where Sheridan Drive hits the 190 and it runs from there down to where the bridges going to Grand

- Island are and there's a park and ride directly underneath the bridges. You go past the old power plant in that section. It's called the Shoreline Trail, I believe.
- Q. What was the middle one that you mentioned?

 Parts of a trail path into Clarence, what's that one called?
- A. There's two trails. They are both -- in laymen's term people in the area just call them the Clarence Bike Path, but they are two bike and hiking paved trails that run through the woods of that area.
- Q. All right. I asked you to tell me what you meant by local parks in your declaration and you have identified Stiglmeier Park, the Clarence Bike Path, and the Shoreline Trail; is that correct?
- A. Yes.

- Q. All right. And understood that you qualified that to say primarily, were there any other local parks in your mind at the time you drafted your declaration, aside from Stiglmeier Park, the Clarence Bike Path and the Shoreline Trail?
- A. There are other parks I have been to. Those

- being the primary most enjoyed. When I have gone to other parks, I have not kept a running list because I did not know I would need it in the future. So I cannot be certain of the exact name or like the date and time without speculating.
- Q. I mean, do you know the date and time on which you have been to Stiglmeier Park?
- A. Stiglmeier Park, the last time I went was the last Wednesday in August.
- Q. And what about before the last Wednesday in August, when was the last time you were at Stiglmeier Park?
- A. That would have been I went Sunday morning, the first Sunday in August.
- Q. And before that, when was the last time you were at Stiglmeier Park?
- A. Before that, would have been the end of July.
- Q. And is the end of July a specific date or time?
 - A. I would have to go back through my calendar.
 - Q. Right. My point is, I just want to know what you mean by local parks in your declaration.

 And you have identified Stiglmeier Park, you have identified the Clarence Bike Path and the

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Shoreline Trail primarily. And then you note other parks, but that you haven't -- you might not know their names?

A. Correct.

- Q. Okay. But the reasoning you have for not providing their names is that you didn't know that you would be able to -- one second. Be required to come up with a date and time. I am just saying that that's consistent for the other parks as well?
- 11 A. Correct.
 - Q. Okay. So is it fair to read the words "local parks" in your declaration in paragraph 7 as Stiglmeier Park, the Clarence Bike Path, and the Shoreline Trail?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. You also note that there were hiking trails and largely wooded and marshy areas a few times each month?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. The hiking trails that you are referring to, are they different than Stiglmeier Park, the Clarence Bike Path, and the Shoreline Trail?
- 25 A. Those previously mentioned trails are some of

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 it, but there are some outside of Erie County 1 2 in the Southern Tier. Q. Okav. Aside from the ones that we have 3 4 already mentioned -- I am just trying to get 5 the world of local parks and hiking trails. Aside from the three that we have mentioned, 6 7 what else are you referring to? A. There's one other primary one. 8 That would be 9 the Harris Hill State Forest area down near 10 Gerry, New York. 11 Q. How do you spell Gerry? 12 A. G, as in George, E-R-R-Y. That's towards like 13 Chautauqua way. 14 Q. And when is the last time you were at the 15 hiking trails in Harris Hill? 16 A. Would have been the beginning of June around Father's Day weekend. 17 Q. And what gun were you carrying? 18 19 A. That would have been my Ruger SP101 and 357 20 Magnum. 21 Q. Both guns? 22 A. That's all one gun.

23 MR. BELKA: Oh, I deserve that. Can you

read me back again what the gun was?

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-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -(The answer was read.) 1 2 BY MR. BELKA: 3 4 Q. Where did you carry it on your person when you 5 were on the hiking trails at Harris Hill in 6 the beginning of June around Father's Day of 7 this year? A. That was an inside-the-waistband holster 8 9 concealed. 10 Q. The inside-the-waistband holster that you use 11 for your 357 Ruger, do you know the brand of it? 12 I do not. 13 Α. 14 Q. Do you know what color it is? 15 It is light brown. It is a little bit lighter 16 than a baseball glove. Q. How do you -- how does it attach to the 17 waistband? 18 19 A. It has a belt clip. The holster part, the 20 leather part goes inside the waistband. 21 There's a metal clip that goes on the outside 22 so it -- if I can try to describe it, like 23 this (indicating). And then you would put 24 your shirt, your garment over that. 25 Q. Are you concerned at all about printing?

A. I am.

- Q. And what do you do to prevent printing?
- A. Pick a gun that is suitable for the event or activity that I am doing for proper retention as well as the size of it and where it is located on my body and then also the type of holster. Concealed means concealed.
- Q. How many holsters do you own?
- A. Approximately, between six or seven.
- Q. Is it fair to say that in your declaration when you refer to local parks or hiking on trails in largely wooded areas and marshy areas, you are referring to Stiglmeier Park, the Clarence Bike Path, Shoreline Trail and Harris Hill State Forest in Gerry, New York?
- A. Primarily, yes.
 - Q. Okay. Is there anything else that you are referring to that you can articulate for me here today?
- A. Not at this time.
 - Q. Do you think that there's some other time that you might be able to articulate to me what you mean by local parks or when hiking on trails?
 - A. I would have to go through a map. I am a very well-traveled individual. I have not been to

every park and public land and location in New York State, but I have been to I would say probably without going into speculation, 80 percent of them and I would have to -- these are the primary ones that I go to frequently. The other are a far more infrequent amount of time between when I go. Sorry. Trying to put it together.

MR. ROTSKO: Object on the grounds that the question calls for speculation as well as it is irrelevant given that he has identified examples of parks.

MR. BELKA: I disagree. And he's clarifying terms in his declaration and what they mean since local parks is meaningless, but that's argument and let's do that later.

BY MR. BELKA:

- Q. Is it fair to say that when you wrote local parks or hiking trails, primarily you were referring to Stiglmeier Park, the Clarence Bike Path, Shoreline Trail, and Harris Hill State Forest in Gerry, New York?
- A. Primarily, yes.
- Q. Within your trip to the Adirondacks and

elsewhere in your declaration, you mentioned -- well, strike that.

Regarding your testimony today related to the planned trip to the Adirondacks and in your declaration elsewhere, you refer to not being able to carry on private property that is open to the public and that prevents you from failing to visit gas stations or hardware stores. Do you remember that testimony?

A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. And as it relates to the Adirondack

 Park, I will just note that the travel to the

 Adirondack Park is not identified as a barrier

 in your declaration.
- A. Clarification, please. I am not understanding.
- Q. Okay. Don't even worry about it, okay? We will just move on from a point I was making, but isn't really for a deposition anyway, okay? Well, no. Let's clarify because you asked me to.

Okay. In the section where you talk about the time off for the Adirondack Park, your declaration says that the CCIA is preventing you from entering the Adirondack

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -Park, but not that the CCIA is preventing you 1 2 from traveling to the Adirondack Park. Do you understand that? 3 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Okay. However, elsewhere in your declaration 6 you do say that travel for you has been 7 inhibited by the CCIA, right? A. Yes. 8 9 Q. Okay. And do you remember those sections of 10 your declaration? A. Yes. 11 12 Q. Okay. You say you can't go to the gas station 13 or hardware stores because the CCIA prevents 14 it? 15 A. Yes. 16 Before we get into how the CCIA Q. Okay. prevents those things allegedly, what gas 17 stations are you visiting weekly -- strike 18 19 that. 20 What gas stations are you referring to 21 when you wrote your declaration? 22 A. Locally that would be Delta Sonic as I have a 23 Delta Sonic gas card. When traveling outside of Buffalo and the suburbs, to use laymen's 24

terms, it simply would be whatever is

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 available when you need gas. I am not as 1 2 picky as long as it's name brand. 3 Q. Okay. You also refer to monthly visits to 4 hardware stores. 5 A. Yes. 6 Q. What hardware stores are you referring to in 7 your declaration? Primarily, Valu hardware stores. 8 O. And that's Valu with no E? 9 10 A. Yes. 11 It's mostly for her (indicating). What Valu hardware store? Like where is 12 it located? 13 14 A. There is one within minutes of where I live. 15 It's off of George Urban Boulevard and Dick 16 Road in a plaza across from Wegmans. Q. Primarily is that the hardware store you are 17 referring to in your declaration? 18 19 Yes. Α. 20 Q. Okay. And it is your position that that Valu 21 on George Urban and Dick Road does not have 22 conspicuous signage that allows you to 23 concealed carry on their property, right? 24 A. Yes.

Q. Have you inquired as to whether or not that

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- Valu hardware store allows you to concealed carry?
- A. I have asked the cashier. They did not want to give an answer because of reasons that I do not know.
- Q. Is it because the cashier is the wrong person to ask? I am legitimately asking that question.
- A. When I have been there, I have seen manager -I have seen everybody working the cashier and
 I don't know what everybody's job title is.
- Q. Okay. Other than asking the cashier, have you made any other efforts to inquire as to the policy at Valu as it relates to concealed carry?
- A. I tried calling their corporate number to find out, and the person I spoke to did not want to give an answer. They said they simply defer to New York State and local law enforcement.
- Q. By not having conspicuous signage according to the law, isn't Valu giving you an answer as to their position on concealed carry?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. And what is that answer as you understand it?
- A. That it is not allowed.

- Q. Okay. And do you believe that as a property owner, Valu can tell you not to conceal carry on their property?
- A. Yes. If they communicate it to me directly, personally.
- Q. But not through signage?
 - A. If they were to post a sign saying specifically that's not allowed, but to have nothing posted at all is vague. And again if a police officer were to come, what exactly is in writing posted that would justify what I am or am not doing.
 - Q. Valu can allow you to concealed carry on their property by posting conspicuous signage, correct?
 - A. They could, correct.
 - Q. They have not done that, correct?
- 18 A. Correct.

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- Q. And in New York that means that you are not allowed to concealed carry on Valu's property, right?
- 22 A. Correct.
 - Q. And having spoken to the cashier and called the corporate number, you have no indications otherwise that they want you to concealed

- carry on their property, correct?
- A. Correct.

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- Q. And you think that the only way they should disallow you from concealed carry on their property is if they say it to you directly?

 MR. ROTSKO: Objection.
- Q. You still have to answer.
- A. Not in the sense of saying it verbally, but it should be explicitly posted and written much like a no trespassing sign or no parking sign or in Buffalo the various you can park from this time to this time but not this time where it's very black and white, so that way the common man would understand and it would make sense.
- Q. But you understand. You know what it means when Valu fails to post conspicuous signage permitting you to concealed carry. You know that means you are prohibited, right?
- A. Correct.
 - Q. Another paragraph in your declaration is about the difficulties of travel and trying to find the conspicuous signage. Do you recall that paragraph?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. And I am going to characterize, but the idea of the paragraph is the conspicuous signage might be hard to find, you are on the property and that makes it uncomfortable for you, right?
- A. Yes.

Q. Okay. If the situation were reversed, as you request, and conspicuous signage needing to be posted preventing you from concealed carrying on the property, wouldn't you run into the exact same issue?

MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Calls for speculation.

- Q. You still have to answer.
- A. If it was done in a way that the signage was uniform, the requirements, a certain size, certain font, certain words being used so it was the same wherever you went. And in ways like other states like Texas does where it has to be posted at the entrance to the building, not the entrance to the property. So if, for example, I was to go to a supermarket to go grocery shopping and I pull in the parking lot and I go to walk up to the entrance and I see they have a signage, I can turn around and go

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- back to my car and safely store, however the law is written, my firearm.
- Q. What mechanism do you have in your 2023 Honda HR-V to safely store your firearm?
- A. I have had since before I got my permit, I bought it in advance -- well, I got my permit. Before I took possession of my first firearm, my first pistol, let me clarify, I bought a safe that has a braided cable that attaches to the inside of the safe. The cable in cars I wrap around the seat frame that is bolted to the passenger seat of the car. And thus, when you put the pistol inside unloaded, magazine ejected and you lock it, it goes under the seat of the passenger seat so it's out of sight even to prevent theft.

With my HR-V I was not able to do that with the seat design so the cable runs through -- in the cargo area by the rear tailgate there's a metal hook that you would attach like a cargo net to or tie cargo down. The metal hook is welded to the body of the vehicle. I run the cable through that, secure the firearm in that. So in order to store my firearm, I would make it safe, put it in there

- and lock it and then throw a blanket over it.

 Again, prying eyes. I don't want to have
 theft. I take it very serious.
 - Q. And where is it located in your -- this storage unit, where is it located in your Honda HR-V?
 - A. In my HR-V it is in the cargo area behind the rear seat. You open the tailgate to access that area.
- Q. Oh, because the Honda HR-V is kind of like a pickup truck?
 - A. That's an SUV. It is smaller than an Equinox, a CR-V.
 - Q. Oh, so when you say lift up the tailgate, you mean like the very back portion?
 - A. The back cargo hatch, like the rear hatch of a Station Wagon.
 - Q. You note in your declaration that people might be uncomfortable if they see you disabling your firearm in your car.
- 21 A. Yes.

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- Q. Do you remember that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. On what do you base that other people might be concerned with your disabling of the firearm

by the tailgate of your HR-V?

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I base it upon the action I would have to go through to comply, which is pull over on the side of the road before entering the property, get out of the driver's door, walk to the back, put the tailgate up. Then I would have to first draw the pistol from a holster, I would have to eject the magazine while the gun is pointed in a safe direction, which in that case would be straight at the ground. I would have to eject a live round, then store the firearm and lock it up. In doing that, looking at New York State Law, one thing that worries me is New York State Law seems to have provisions for publicly displaying or having out in public a firearm while hunting. firearm meaning all guns.

The other thing they seem to have is if you are at the gun range or a gun club, some sort of sport target shooting of some type, everything else seems that a police officer can interpret it as brandishing because you are displaying it in public. The other thing to look at for the common person in New York, all the time you see in the police blotter

throughout the state people calling the cops on other people because they think so-and-so had a gun, but it was an umbrella. They think so-and-so had a gun, but it was a cellphone. People in New York, as opposed to what I found in my travels in other states, they tend to be more skittish, more scared of guns.

So based upon that in my experience, I would worry that either a police officer driving by and here is a person on the side of a public road that has a handgun in their hands and there's a live round coming out or a mother with her two kids driving down the road might feel scared by that because it's being displayed in public. I have always felt concealed means it's concealed. It is not openly waved about, if you will.

- Q. Isn't it the same if the private property prevents you from carrying on their property? You still have to go and store your firearm, right?
- A. Yes.

Q. So if they prevent you by conspicuous signage or they prevent you because the law says that there is no conspicuous signage and that

prevents you, the process of disabling your firearm is going to be the same?

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A. Correct.

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- Q. Have you ever seen other people at the tailgate of their car not disabling a firearm?
- A. Most people that I have talked to either say they intend to ignore the law, which is not how we have a law-abiding society.
- Q. I am going to cut you off just because it's not an answer to the question, okay?
- 11 A. Okay.
 - Q. The question is: Have you ever seen other people at the rear of their car with a tailgate doing anything other than disarming a weapon?
 - A. No, I have not.
 - Q. You have never seen somebody load groceries in the back of a car?
 - A. Oh, I thought you meant have I -- I have seen people at the back of a vehicle loading cargo, yes.
 - Q. Right. Okay. Like 99 percent of the time somebody is at the back of their car, they are doing something other than disarming their weapon, right?

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-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -1 Yes. Α. Q. So sitting at the back of your car, okay, 2 doing something in the back of your car is not 3 4 necessarily suspicious in and of itself, 5 right? 6 A. Not always, no. 7 Q. How long does it take you to disarm and store your firearm? 8 9 A. If I had to estimate an approximation of time 10 because I have never timed it, it would be somewhere between 30 to 40 seconds. 11 12 MR. BELKA: Okay. We are going to take a break to deal with an annoying sound. 13 14 second. Off the record. 15 16 (Recess was taken.) 17 (The question and answer were read.) 18 BY MR. BELKA: 19 Q. One of the other areas that your declaration 20 21 addresses is when traveling the private 22 property provisions of the CCIA prevent you 23 from taking bathroom breaks. Do you recall that? 24 25 A. Yes.

- Q. Okay. Can you describe what you mean by that?
- A. If I was traveling and I needed to either while driving or hiking stop and use a bathroom and whether it's a fast food restaurant, a coffee shop, private business, what have you, and I need to use the facilities, I am carrying a firearm, I can't go to their property now because they don't have it posted and I -- or I don't know ahead of time if they have it posted because trying to find out who owns the property and who is the legal mouthpiece to make such decisions is sometimes very hard to track down.
- Q. Have you ever tried to track it down by calling ahead?
- A. I have with some, but it gets so difficult and either people don't want to comment; they don't want to make a decision. They say about liability, that they are defaulting to what New York State says. So it's neither a yes or no.
- Q. Is that a direct quote from somebody that you spoke to that they are defaulting to what New York State said?
- A. Yes.

Q. Who told you that?

- A. It was an employee at a Tim Hortons around the corner from me. It is Wehrle Drive and it's either Dick Road or Cayuga Road. M&T Bank has a facility right across the street from them. There's an OTB gambling spot directly behind that was robbed about a year ago in a brazen robbery.
- Q. Were you trying to take a bathroom break at this Tim Hortons near your house?
- A. I was on my way home. Lunch had started to rapidly disagree with me, not trying to get gross, and I was unsure that I was going to make it home.
- Q. And did you talk to that Tim Hortons employee by phone or in person?
- A. I called them.
- Q. And what can you recall about what you said to them and what they said to you?
 - A. I simply asked per New York State Law do you have any signage allowing the lawful possession of firearms to be carried on your property to know that if I would be legal to do so, and they responded with they are not really going to make a decision on that. They

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- simply default to what New York State says and then they hung up on me.
- Q. What level of person were you talking to at Tim Hortons, like a baker or cashier? Who were you talking to?
- A. That I do not know. They did not identify their position in the company.
- Q. Right. But you called the franchise location you were trying to use the bathroom at?
- A. Correct.

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- Q. Right. And if that Tim Hortons had decided not to allow concealed carry through conspicuous signage, you would be in the same spot, right?
- A. Approximately, yes. But I would not have ended up having an accident in my vehicle. I would have seen a sign and just kept going.
- Q. Look, I am not sure I want to clarify this, but when you say "accident," are you talking about a car accident, are you talking about an accident related to going to the bathroom?
- A. A urination accident.
- Q. Okay. Do you have some sort of a medical condition that exacerbated or otherwise may have caused that urination accident?

- A. I drink a lot of coffee.
- Q. Right. So not a medical condition?
 - A. No medical condition.
 - Q. Right. Can you think of any other times in which you have called ahead to inquire about the policy, the carriage policy at a location that you were attempting to go to?
 - A. I have called ahead to both Tops and Wegmans grocery stores. I have called Cabela's on Walden and also, I have called ahead to Danny's on Genesee near the airport and Otto's off of Union near Genesee. They are restaurants.
 - Q. Did you say Denny's like D-E-N-N-Y-S?
- A. D-A-N-N-Y-S, Danny's.
- 16 Q. Okay. And the last one was Otto's?
- 17 A. Otto's.

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- 18 Q. And how do you spell Otto's?
- 19 A. O-T-T-O-S.
 - Q. Okay. And in your conversation calling ahead to the Tops grocery store in order to determine their policy on carriage, what did you say to them and what did they say to you?
 - A. Calling both to Tops and Wegmans, I inquired towards the first week of September when

changes took effect if they permitted the lawful, for licensed permit holders, carrying of concealed firearms on their property. With both of those again I don't know the ranking level, that would be the word I would select, of the employee. They both said that they were declining to comment at this time. I would have to talk to a corporate location and track down somebody in corporate. Not a specified person, but someone in corporate.

- Q. And did you do that?
- A. I tried, got bounced around, could not get definitive answers. Answers in the sense either explicit, on-the-record verbal permission or explicit, on-the-record written permission.
- Q. Did you ever go to those locations and see whether or not there was conspicuous signage?
- A. I have.

- Q. Okay. And if you went to those locations, did you see conspicuous signage?
 - A. At Tops and Wegmans, the stores that I have been to do not have anything posted saying that it is allowed.
 - Q. And so pursuant to New York State Law, what

did that communicate to you?

- A. That communicated to me that it would be a violation of law to bring onto the property a firearm.
- Q. Right. So at the time you saw no conspicuous signage on Tops and Wegmans, you knew that you were not allowed to concealed carry on their properties?
- A. Yes. Once I went on the property. I decided to, when I made my next shopping trip, to not carry at all, leave it at home because I did not know what was going to happen and pulling a firearm out in public to me is unsafe if you are doing it at all. So I went without and that's when I see that there's nothing posted.
- Q. All right. And your calling ahead to Cabela's on Walden to determine their policy on carriage, what did you say to them and what did they say to you?
- A. I asked them if they permit lawful permit holders to carry concealed on their person on their property. Cabela's said as long as you follow New York State Law, not threatening people, not waving it about, not trying to commit a crime, that they do have signage

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- posted at their front door, but not the entrance to the property that does allow it.
- Q. Through a phone call were you able to determine that concealed carry on the Cabela's property was allowed?
- A. Through a verbal phone call I was able to see and then when I actually went to the property, I had seen on the doors, the entrance to the building that they do have it posted now.
- Q. Right. But my point is, is that through a phone call to Cabela's on Walden you were able to determine your rights as to carriage on their private property?
- A. I was able to determine, but not confirm because on a phone call I have no guarantee that the person I am speaking to is who they say they are and if I were to take their word and then arrive and then law enforcement, something happens and they are there, it would be he said, she said. Where's my proof?

 Where's my proof in writing?
- Q. Right. And just falling back on prior testimony, no state police person -- you have not been arrested for violations of the CCIA, right?

- A. As of this date, I have not.
- Q. Right. And nobody has approached you to enforce the CCIA, correct?
- A. Not yet. I don't know the future.
 - Q. Right. You mentioned that you called Tops and Wegmans to determine their carriage policy in the first week of September, correct?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. And you signed your declaration on the 26th of September, correct?
- 11 A. Correct.

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- Q. And you could have included that information in your declaration, but did not, correct?
 - A. I did not because, again, not being a legal person I did not know.
- Q. So the next question is, why --

MR. ROTSKO: Objection to the extent it calls for attorney-client privileged communications as well as work product which is protected and I direct Mr. Christian not to answer with any of that information.

MR. BELKA: I just want to be clear about what question he's not answering. I am asking him why he did not include his calls to Wegmans and Tops to determine their carriage

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 policy that he made on September 1st, the first 1 2 week of September, why he did not include that in his declaration that is dated September 3 4 And you are directing him not to answer 5 that question? 6 MR. ROTSKO: Yes. 7 MR. BELKA: And the reason he is being directed not to answer that question is why? 8 9 MR. ROTSKO: The attorney-client 10 communication privilege and the work product 11 protection doctrine. 12 BY MR. BELKA: 13 14 Q. Did you call Cabela's on Walden at around the 15 same time that you called Tops and Wegmans? 16 A. Yes. Q. And Cabela's confirmed their carriage policy 17 on the phone with you, correct? 18 19 Yes. Α. 20 Why did you not include your phone call to 21 Cabela's which took place approximately the 22 week of September 1st in the declaration that 23 you signed on September 26th? 24 MR. ROTSKO: Objection on the grounds of 25 attorney-client privileged information and work

product protection doctrine. Directing

Mr. Christian not to answer that question.

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- Q. You also mentioned that you contacted Danny's and Otto's, correct?
- A. Correct.

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- Q. And did you do that at around the same time that you contacted Tops, Wegmans, and Cabela's?
- A. Correct.
- Q. Right. And that timeframe is the first week of September?
- 12 A. Correct.
- Q. Okay. What did Otto's say regarding their carriage policy?
 - A. Both restaurants said that they declined to answer as they had not been able to make a decision as the recently implemented law, they were unsure of either liability to their business or if they decided to allow it, what met the requirements for posting signage on the property.
 - Q. Both Otto's and Danny's said the exact same thing, that they had not yet made a decision; it was a recently implemented law and they weren't sure what signage to post?

- A. Both of them said that. Not the exact words verbatim because I did not write it down, but that was the gist. That was the scope of their messages.
- Q. Did you ever go to Otto's and Danny's to determine whether or not they had conspicuous signage posted?
- A. I went the following weekend, the one after

 Labor Day, and neither one had anything posted

 at that time.
- Q. By Otto's and Danny's failing to post conspicuous signage, did you understand that you were not allowed to carry on their property?
- A. I would have to speculate that it's not allowed because they are not expressively saying it is.
- Q. All of that, the phone call to Otto's and Danny's and Tops and Wegmans determining and going to those locations to determine the conspicuous signage, all of that happened prior to you signing the declaration on September 26th, 2022?
- A. Yes.

Q. Okay. And none of that is included in your

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 declaration, correct? 1 2 A. Yes. Q. Why did you not include the information as it 3 4 relates to Tops, Wegmans, Cabela's, Danny's 5 and Otto's in your declaration? 6 MR. ROTSKO: Objection on the grounds of 7 attorney-client privileged communications and work product protection doctrine. Directing 8 9 Mr. Christian not to answer that specific 10 question. 11 The following were marked for identification: 12 Exhibit 2 - Declaration 13 14 BY MR. BELKA: 15 16 Q. Mr. Christian, I am handing you what has been marked as Exhibit 2. Do you see it? 17 A. I do. 18 19 Q. If you would leaf through it to the back, it's 20 a four-page document. What is this? 21 A. This is the last page of it with my signature. 22 Q. Right. But Exhibit 2 is what? 23 A. Clarification, please. 24 Q. Okay. I am going to represent to you that 25 Exhibit 2 is the declaration that you have

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 submitted in this case and which we have been 1 2 talking about today. 3 A. Yes. 4 O. Okav. And you understand that the declaration 5 I was referring to, a copy of it is Exhibit 2? 6 Α. Yes. 7 Okay. Do you know who John Boron is? Ο. A. I do not know him personally, no. 8 9 Q. Okay. So go to the front first page of 10 Exhibit 2. You can see that John Boron's name 11 is in what we call the caption. Do you see that? 12 A. Yes, I do. 13 14 Q. Okay. And do you know why Mr. Boron withdrew 15 as a plaintiff in this case? 16 A. I do not. Q. Has anyone ever communicated to you anything 17 related to the withdrawal of Mr. Boron as a 18 19 plaintiff in this case? 20 A. No. 21 MR. ROTSKO: Objection to the extent 22 that it calls for attorney-client 23 communications. 24 25 BY MR. BELKA:

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -Q. If you will go to page 4 of Exhibit 2. 1 2 that your signature? 3 A. Yes. 4 Q. Okay. And you will also note that it states 5 that it was executed on this 26th day of September 2022. Do you see that? 6 7 Α. Yes. Q. Is that the date on which you signed the 8 9 document that is in front of you as Exhibit 2? 10 A. Yes. 11 MR. BELKA: Can you read that back? 12 13 (The question and answer were read.) 14 15 The following were marked for identification: 16 Exhibit 3 - New York State concealed carry license application 17 BY MR. BELKA: 18 19 Q. Mr. Christian, I am handing you a document 20 labeled as Exhibit 3 to your deposition. 21 you see it? 22 A. Yes, I do. 23 What is it? Ο. 24 That is State of New York Pistol/Revolver Α. 25 License Application.

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -Q. Okay. Is this what we have been referring to 1 2 colloquially as your concealed carry 3 application for licensure? 4 A. Yes. 5 Q. Okay. And if you go to page 2, sort of in the middle, on what date did you sign this? 6 7 The 30th day of January 2020. Α. Q. And is it fair to say that you applied for a 8 9 concealed carry license in the State of New 10 York on or about January 30th, 2020? A. Yes. 11 Q. And that's reflected in Exhibit 3? 12 13 A. Yes. 14 15 The following were marked for identification: 16 Exhibit 4 - List of firearms 17 BY MR. BELKA: 18 19 Q. Mr. Christian, I am handing you an exhibit marked exhibit -- strike that. 20 21 Mr. Christian, I am handing you a 22 document marked Exhibit 4 to your deposition. 23 Do you see it? 24 A. Yes, I do. 25 Q. Okay. Can you tell me what it is?

- A. It appears to be from some point in time.

 It's not dated, but a list of -- or, yeah, I guess a list would be the best word. A list of the pistols or revolvers on my permit at that time.
- Q. I just counted. It reflects ten pistols or revolvers. Do you see that?
- A. Yes.

- Q. And you recognize that these are a representation of your pistols or revolvers that were on your permit at some period of time, correct?
- 13 A. Yes.
 - Q. Okay. Is this a relatively recent documentation of the handguns that you have on your permit?
 - A. Clarification. When you say "recent", what timeframe?
 - Q. Sure. I mean, does this in large part accurately reflect the handguns on your permit at this time?
 - A. For the last year I would say no. There are quite a few that I no longer own, and there's quite a few new ones.
 - Q. Okay. Can you identify for the record which

- of these weapons you no longer own at present?
- A. The German sports guns, manufacturer one, the Glock 19X and Glock 27, the -- people call it CZ, but the Ceska -- I am butchering the name, but it would be listed model, Shadow 2, that one. The one below it, manufacturer is France, the 509C and the Smith & Wesson at the very bottom, 4566. So those I have all sold and replaced with different ones.
- Q. You sold and replaced the six identified guns within the last year?
 - A. Year, year and a half. Thereabouts, yes.
 - Q. But you did testify that you have 11 handguns. So you have replaced them with other handguns?
 - A. Yes. Correct.

MR. BELKA: Brett, I don't think I have any other questions for you reserving my right depending on whether or not Mr. Rotsko has additional questions for you.

Mr. Rotsko?

MR. ROTSKO: Thank you, Mr. Belka. I do have some questions.

24 EXAMINATION BY MR. ROTSKO:

Q. Mr. Christian, is it correct that earlier

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

today you testified that during the period after you obtained your concealed carry license and September 1st, 2022, you hiked in Stiglmeier Park?

A. Yes.

- Q. About how many times a month, if you could estimate, did you hike in Stiglmeier Park during that time?
- A. Approximately, two to three times a month.
- Q. Did you carry a pistol in a concealed fashion in Stiglmeier Park on those hikes?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Have you hiked in Stiglmeier Park since September 1st, 2022?
 - A. I have not.
- Q. Can you explain why not?
 - A. Based upon past experiences, not being able to carry and not having the guarantee per the Supreme Court that law enforcement will always be there to protect me, I can't guarantee my safety. If I can't guarantee my safety or have the means to protect myself, I find it best to avoid going to the areas. Don't put yourself in trouble is a good way to stay safe.

- Q. Is there anything that could happen that would -- that you would feel comfortable going back to Stiglmeier Park for hikes?
- A. I am sorry. Say it again.
- Q. Let me rephrase that. In your -- what would have to happen for you to feel comfortable to return to Stiglmeier Park at the same rate that you did prior to September 1st, 2022?
- A. I would have to know that I could exercise my constitutional right to be able to have a pistol or revolver for my self-defense if the need arose in accordance with Article 35 of New York State Law.
- Q. If that happened, how often would you return to Stiglmeier Park as part of your routine that you had prior to September 1st, 2022?
- A. I would like to resume my previous frequency of two to three times a month to enjoy that park.
- Q. Is it correct that earlier today you testified that after you obtained a concealed carry license you hiked in the Clarence Bike Path?
- A. Yes.

Q. Are there any areas of the Clarence Bike Path where you would not hike?

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

- A. Yes. On one of the trails when you start getting towards what is called Clarence Center. I believe that's the actual town name. There's a Clarence Town Park that the bike path runs through, again, to use the laymen's terms of bike path. I don't enter that point because as far as I have been able to tell talking to law enforcement, researching on the internet, Clarence has a prohibition against that. So that part I don't go into.
- Q. Prior to your hikes on the Clarence Bike Path, to what extent, if any, did you inquire with law enforcement officials about whether you can carry concealed on those bike paths?
- A. When I first got my permit, the places that I frequent I spent a couple days making phone calls just to try and find out this information.
- Q. Do you remember which law enforcement -- well, were those phone calls to law enforcement?
 - A. Yes. For Clarence, Clarence doesn't have a police department. That was the Erie County Sheriff's Office.
 - Q. Do you recall the guidance the Erie County

Sheriff's Office provided you?

- A. The person that answered the phone at the sheriff's office told me that the town park, the Clarence Town Park section is off limits, but the rest as far as they were aware was okay.
- Q. And on the areas of the Clarence Bike Path that you used prior to September 1st, 2022, and after you had your concealed carry permit, did you carry a pistol in a concealed manner?
- A. Yes.

- Q. Have you walked or hiked on the Clarence Bike Path after September 1st, 2022?
- A. No, I have not.
- Q. Could you explain why?
 - A. Because, again, it is very wooded. Clarence does not have a police department of its own. It relies on the sheriffs. There's not a sheriff deputy standing on every street corner, every couple of feet. The prior history of the bike path, there was years and years ago the rapist on there that attacked women. I have no guarantee in the future that something else wouldn't happen there.

I have also encountered there and at

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -Stiglmeier wild turkeys. Until I encountered 1 2 them, you would think that they are a joke. 3 They can be, especially when you get into the fall, very aggressive and a turkey on the 4 Thanksqiving dinner plate is a lot smaller 5 than in real life. 6 7 O. If the CCIA had not taken effect on September 1st, 2022, would you have continued 8 to walk the Clarence Bike Path? 9 A. Yes. I would have. 10 Q. About how often did you do that prior to 11 September 1st, 2022? 12 13 A. Approximately, two to three times a week. 14 Q. Would you anticipate doing that -- excuse me. 15 Strike that I am going to start over. 16 question. 17 Would that habit have continued in your anticipation if the CCIA had not taken effect? 18 19 A. Yes. 20 Q. And would you return to that habit if the CCIA 21 was repealed or enjoined? 22 A. Yes.

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Q. Earlier today you testified to hiking in

Harris Hill State Lands; is that correct?

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A. Yes.

- Q. Did that occur after you obtained the New York
 State concealed carry license?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Did you carry a pistol on the Harris Hill State Lands in a concealed manner?
- 6 A. Yes.
 - Q. Have you hiked -- about how often would you hike on the Harris Hill State Land?
 - A. It would average out to about once a month.

 More frequently in spring, summer, fall. Less
 frequently in winter just due to my days off
 or time off work versus weather cooperating.
 - Q. Have you hiked at the Harris Hill State Lands after September 1st, 2022?
 - A. I have not.
 - Q. Is there a reason for that?
- A. Because I would not be able to get there, go
 about what used to be the routine for doing
 that and still legally have a pistol with me
 for self-defense.
 - Q. If the CCIA was repealed or enjoined, would you anticipate returning to your habit of hiking in Harris Hill approximately once a month?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. Prior to September 1st, 2022, did you carry a concealed pistol at the Valu Home Center that you were discussing with Mr. Belka earlier today?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Have you done so after September 1st, 2022?
- A. I have not.
 - Q. Would you carry a concealed firearm on that Valu Home Center property if the CCIA was repealed or enjoined?
- MR. BELKA: Objection.
- 12 Q. Go ahead and answer.
- A. If I legally could do so, I would return to doing that.
- Q. If the Valu Home Center -- I am going to pause for a moment.
 - Prior to September 1st, 2022, did you carry a concealed firearm on the Delta Sonic properties that you discussed with Mr. Belka earlier today?
- 21 A. Yes.
 - Q. Have you carried a concealed firearm on those premises after September 1st, 2022?
 - A. I have not.
- 25 Q. Are you able to estimate -- let me pause.

—BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

After September 1st, 2022, when the CCIA took effect, have you reduced the number of instances where you carry concealed outside of the home?

A. Yes.

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Q. Are you able to estimate by how much you have reduced your carry of a concealed firearm -pistol, excuse me?

MR. BELKA: Objection.

Q. I am going to strike that question. Well, I am going to ask another question.

Mr. Christian, are you able to estimate the extent to which your reduction -- or the extent to which you have reduced your carry of a concealed firearm after the CCIA took effect on September 1st, 2022?

MR. BELKA: Objection.

- Q. You may answer.
- A. It has been reduced to almost nonexistent. It would be easier to count on three fingers the number of places and times that I have been able to carry. It has virtually turned into an inability for me to do so.

MR. ROTSKO: Thank you for your patience, Mr. Christian and Mr. Belka. I don't

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—BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 —

have any other questions right now, although I do reserve my right to re-cross if need be.

REEXAMINATION BY BY MR. BELKA:

Q. Very briefly. How old were you on January 30th, 2020, when you received your concealed carry license -- or strike that.

How old were you on January 30th, 2020, when you applied for your concealed carry license?

- A. Approximately, between 37 to 38 years of age.
- Q. Right. So just as shorthand I am going to refer to you as being 36 as prior to your receiving your concealed carry license. Would that be accurate?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Up until the time that you were 36 years old and you could not conceal carry, how many times did you walk in Stiglmeier Park?
 - A. Less frequently. It would have been maybe one to two times a year.
 - Q. So is it fair to say that upon receipt of your concealed carry license, you increased the frequency in which you walked in Stiglmeier Park from one to two times a year to two to

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-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 -

three times a month?

A. Yes.

- Q. When you were 36, again that's prior to you receiving your concealed carry license, how many times a week did you walk on the Clarence Bike Path?
- A. Less frequent. Approximately two to three times a year.
- Q. And is it fair to say that upon receiving your concealed carry license you increased the number of times you walked on the Clarence Bike Path from two to three times a year to two to three times a week?
- A. Yes.
- Q. When was the bike path rapist? Approximately what year in Buffalo?
- A. I don't remember the exact year.
 - Q. My mother is law enforcement and was one of the individuals who sat as a dummy in order to catch the bike path rapist, and my wife was pretty young at the time so I am going to go like sometime in the 1980s. Does that sound right?
 - A. Without looking it up, I would defer to that then.

- Q. But it was a pretty long time ago, a couple of decades at least?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. Okay. And the aggressive wild turkeys, have you ever had cause to use your weapon from the time you received your concealed carry permit until September 1st, 2022, in order to prevent wild turkey attacks?
- A. Under Article 35 it has never gotten to the point where I would need to use it.
- 11 Q. What's Article 35?
 - A. New York State Article 35 on the use of deadly force when it is justified in relation to protecting human life.
 - Q. That's for discharge of firearms, right?
 - A. Relating to the discharge of firearms, I believe would be under the use of deadly force.
 - Q. Okay. Did you ever wave your handgun at the wild turkeys?
- 21 A. No.
 - Q. Did the concealed carry effect the wild turkey's aggressiveness when you were on the Clarence Bike Path?
- 25 A. I cannot speculate on their motivations.

- Q. Right. Okay. So when you were 36, again this is before you get the concealed carry permit, how many times a month did you go to the Harris Hill State Lands?
- A. Before I got the permit?
- Q. Before.

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- A. It would have been one to two times a year.
- Q. And is it fair to say upon receiving your concealed carry permit that the amount of time you visited the Harris Hill State Lands increased from one to two times a year to one time a month?
- A. Yes. On average.
- Q. When you were 36 did you ever go to Valu Home Centers?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Prior when you were 36 did you go to Valu Home Centers less frequently than you did after your receipt of your concealed carry license?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So when you received your concealed carry license, you went to Valu more often than you had done prior?
- A. Yes.
- 25 Q. Did you have any less need for hardware

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 supplies before and after you received your 1 2 concealed carry license? 3 A. No. Q. As it relates to Delta Sonic, prior to -- when 4 5 you were 36 -- strike all of that. When you were 36 and going to Delta 6 7 Sonic, did you go less frequently at 36 than you did after you received your concealed 8 9 carry permit? 10 A. Yes. I was driving less. You were driving less? 11 Ο. 12 A. Before I got my permit, I didn't drive as much 13 as after I got my permit. So I wasn't using 14 as much gas. 15 Q. What was the motivating factor for driving 16 more? To experience the outdoors of New York State. 17 But only while concealed carrying? 18 Q. 19 A. I would carry when I had my permit before September 1st. I would carry wherever the law 20 21 allowed and whenever the law allowed. 22

- Q. But not when you were 36 because when you were 36 you had no concealed carry permit?
- Yes. So then when I was 36 there would be Α. many instances I simply wouldn't do things

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-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 because I wouldn't be able to quarantee my 1 2 safety. Q. You sat in your home as a 36-year-old man, 3 4 okay, and did not experience the world including going to Delta Sonic, okay, until 5 6 you received your concealed carry license? 7 A. Not -- let me back up here. MR. ROTSKO: Objection. 8 9 MR. BELKA: I want you to answer that 10 question. MR. ROTSKO: Yes. You can answer the 11 12 question. 13 MR. BELKA: Read it back. 14 15 (The question was read.) 16 THE WITNESS: I would not -- so I worked 17 long hours. I don't have usually a 9:00 to 18 19 5:00 day. A lot of times I will have a 7:00 or 8:00 a.m. day until 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 20 21 10:00 at night. If it's 8 o'clock at night and 22 I am leaving work and I needed to run to the 23 store in winter when it gets dark out, there's 24 times I would go shopping after I got my 25 permit. Wegmans used to be 24 hours before

COVID did its thing. I would go grocery shopping at midnight, 1:00 in the morning. I am leaving work; it's convenient. I don't have to worry about my safety. I can stop at, you know, Delta Sonic at 8:45 at night before they close on a Friday night, Saturday night. I can get gas; I don't have to worry, and I can go to any Delta Sonic that I wanted. I could go to any Wegmans I wanted, any Tops. Now, for example, the Tops up from me on Union Road, the Wegmans up from me on Union Road.

Like I have seen at work, the criminal element seems to be more emboldened with the bail reform. I worry that there is now a greater likelihood of having a bad encounter and my attitude is, don't put yourself in what you would consider to be an unsafe situation. I don't feel free to go to the grocery store whenever they are open. I now prefer to go early in the morning when most people are asleep on a Sunday morning.

BY MR. BELKA:

Q. This question is not about now. This question is about when you were 36 or prior to having a

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concealed carry license to the period in which you had a concealed carry license. Did you go to Delta Sonic less frequently before you had your concealed carry license as opposed to when you had your concealed carry license?

A. I made less stops.

MR. ROTSKO: Objection. Asked and answered.

- Q. You still have to answer.
- A. I made less stops because I simply was not driving as much.
- Q. Because you were going fewer locations because you didn't have a concealed carry permit?
- A. Correct.

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- Q. You can count on three fingers the amount of times you have concealed carried after the implementation of the CCIA. What are those three times?
- A. When I went to Cabela's and I recently added a new handgun and a more suitable bear caliber.

 That was recently a few weeks ago.
- Q. When you say bear caliber, B-E-A-R?
 - A. B-E-A-R.
- Q. Okay.
- 25 A. When I went to Wolcott Guns on Walden to use

-BRETT CHRISTIAN - 11/16/2022 the shooting range at a gun store and there 1 2 were two trips there: One to buy ammo and one 3 to use the gun store -- or gun range. Q. Those are the three, Cabela's, Wolcott and 4 5 Wolcott? A. Correct. 6 7 MR. BELKA: That's all for me unless you have anything else, Nick. 8 9 MR. ROTSKO: I do not have anything 10 else. 11 MR. BELKA: The deposition has ended. I 12 only want a PDF. 13 MR. ROTSKO: PDF is sufficient for us as 14 well. 15 MR. BELKA: And billing me. Nick, are 16 you okay if the exhibits are attached to the 17 transcript, copies of the exhibits? MR. ROTSKO: Yes. 18 19 20 (Deposition concluded at 5:00 p.m.) 21 22 23 24 25

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            STATE OF NEW YORK)
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            COUNTY OF ERIE
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 5
             I, Brooklyn Morton, Notary Public, in and for
 6
            the County of Erie, State of New York, do
           hereby certify:
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 8
             That the witness whose testimony appears
           hereinbefore was, before the commencement of
           their testimony, duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the
 9
            truth; that said testimony was taken pursuant
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           to notice at the time and place as herein set
11
            forth; that said testimony was taken down by me
            and thereafter transcribed into typewriting,
           and I hereby certify the foregoing testimony is a full, true and correct transcription of my
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            shorthand notes so taken.
14
            I further certify that I am neither counsel for nor related to any party to said action,
15
            nor in anyway interested in the outcome
16
           thereof.
17
             IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
            subscribed my name and affixed my seal on this
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            16th day of November, 2022.
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1	CERTIFICATE OF WITNESS
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4	foregoing transcript, and the same is true and
5	correct, save and except for the changes and/or
6	corrections, if any, as indicated to by me on
7	the errata sheet attached hereto.
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13	Subscribed and sworn to me before this
14	day of, 20
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